

Aminobenzimidazole derivatives**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

5

The invention had the object of finding novel compounds having valuable properties, in particular those which can be used for the preparation of medicaments.

10

The present invention relates to compounds in which the inhibition, regulation and/or modulation of kinase signal transduction, in particular tyrosine kinase and/or Raf kinase signal transduction, plays a role, furthermore to pharmaceutical compositions which comprise these compounds, and to

15

the use of the compounds for the treatment of tyrosine kinase-induced diseases.

20

Specifically, the present invention relates to compounds which inhibit, regulate and/or modulate tyrosine kinase signal transduction, to compositions which comprise these compounds, and to methods for the use thereof for the treatment of tyrosine kinase-induced diseases and conditions, such as angiogenesis, cancer, tumour growth, arteriosclerosis, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, inflammatory diseases and the

25

like, in mammals.

30

Tyrosine kinases are a class of enzymes which catalyse the transfer of the terminal phosphate of adenosine triphosphate to tyrosine residues in protein substrates. It is thought that tyrosine kinases, through substrate phosphorylation, play a crucial role in signal transduction for a number of cellular functions. Although the precise mechanisms of signal transduction are still unclear, tyrosine kinases have been shown to be important contributing factors in cell proliferation, carcinogenesis and cell differentiation.

35

Tyrosine kinases can be categorised as receptor-type tyrosine kinases or non-receptor-type tyrosine kinases. Receptor-type tyrosine kinases have an extracellular portion, a transmembrane portion and an intracellular portion, while non-receptor-type tyrosine kinases are exclusively intracellular.

5 Receptor-type tyrosine kinases consist of a multiplicity of transmembrane receptors with different biological activity. Thus, about 20 different sub-families of receptor-type tyrosine kinases have been identified. One tyrosine kinase subfamily, known as the HER subfamily, consists of EGFR, HER2, HER3 and HER4. Ligands from this subfamily of receptors include

10 epithelial growth factor, TGF- α , amphiregulin, HB-EGF, betacellulin and heregulin. Another subfamily of these receptor-type tyrosine kinases is the insulin subfamily, which includes INS-R, IGF-IR and IR-R. The PDGF subfamily includes the PDGF- α and - β receptors, CSFIR, c-kit and FLK-II.

15 In addition, there is the FLK family, which consists of the kinase insert domain receptor (KDR), foetal liver kinase-1 (FLK-1), foetal liver kinase-4 (FLK-4) and fms tyrosine kinase-1 (flt-1). The PDGF and FLK families are usually discussed together due to the similarities between the two groups.

20 For a detailed discussion of receptor-type tyrosine kinases, see Plowman et al., *DN & P* 7(6):334-339, 1994, which is hereby incorporated by way of reference.

Non-receptor-type tyrosine kinases likewise consist of a multiplicity of sub-families, including Src, Frk, Btk, Csk, Abl, Zap70, Fes/Fps, Fak, Jak, Ack

25 and LIMK. Each of these subfamilies is further sub-divided into different receptors. For example, the Src subfamily is one of the largest subfamilies. It includes Src, Yes, Fyn, Lyn, Lck, Blk, Hck, Fgr and Yrk. The Src subfamily of enzymes has been linked to oncogenesis. For a more detailed

30 discussion of non-receptor-type tyrosine kinases, see Bolen *Oncogene*, 8:2025-2031 (1993), which is hereby incorporated by way of reference.

Both receptor-type tyrosine kinases and non-receptor-type tyrosine kinases are involved in cellular signalling pathways leading to numerous

35 pathogenic conditions, including cancer, psoriasis and hyperimmune responses.

It has been proposed that various receptor-type tyrosine kinases, and the growth factors binding to them, play a role in angiogenesis, although some may promote angiogenesis indirectly (Mustonen and Alitalo, *J. Cell Biol.* 129:895-898, 1995). One of these receptor-type tyrosine kinases is foetal liver kinase 1, also referred to as FLK-1. The human analogue of FLK-1 is the kinase insert domain-containing receptor KDR, which is also known as vascular endothelial cell growth factor receptor 2 or VEGFR-2, since it binds VEGF with high affinity. Finally, the murine version of this receptor has also been called NYK (Oelrichs et al., *Oncogene* 8(1):11-15, 1993). VEGF and KDR are a ligand-receptor pair which plays a vital role in the proliferation of vascular endothelial cells and the formation and sprouting of blood vessels, referred to as vasculogenesis and angiogenesis respectively.

Angiogenesis is characterised by excessive activity of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). VEGF actually consists of a family of ligands (Klagsburn and D'Amore, *Cytokine & Growth Factor Reviews* 7:259-270, 1996). VEGF binds the high affinity membrane-spanning tyrosine kinase receptor KDR and the related fms tyrosine kinase-1, also known as Flt-1 or vascular endothelial cell growth factor receptor 1 (VEGFR-1). Cell culture and gene knockout experiments indicate that each receptor contributes to different aspects of angiogenesis. KDR mediates the mitogenic function of VEGF, whereas Flt-1 appears to modulate non-mitogenic functions, such as those associated with cellular adhesion. Inhibiting KDR thus modulates the level of mitogenic VEGF activity. In fact, tumour growth has been shown to be susceptible to the antiangiogenic effects of VEGF receptor antagonists (Kim et al., *Nature* 362, pp. 841- 844, 1993).

Three PTK (protein tyrosine kinase) receptors for VEGFR have been identified: VEGFR-1 (Flt-1); VEGFR-2 (Flk-1 or KDR) and VEGFR-3 (Flt-4). VEGFR-2 is of particular interest.

Solid tumours can therefore be treated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors since these tumours depend on angiogenesis for the formation of the blood ves-

sels that are necessary to support their growth. These solid tumours include monocytic leukaemia, carcinomas of the brain, urogenital tract, lymphatic system, stomach, larynx and lung, including lung adenocarcinoma and small cell lung carcinoma. Further examples include carcinomas in which overexpression or activation of Raf-activating oncogenes (for example, K-ras, erb-B) is observed. Such carcinomas include pancreatic and breast carcinoma. Inhibitors of these tyrosine kinases are therefore suitable for the prevention and treatment of proliferative diseases caused by these enzymes.

The angiogenic activity of VEGF is not limited to tumours. VEGF accounts for the angiogenic activity produced in or near the retina in diabetic retinopathy. This vascular growth in the retina leads to visual degeneration culminating in blindness. Ocular VEGF mRNA and protein levels are elevated by conditions such as retinal vein occlusion in primates and decreased pO_2 levels in mice that lead to neovascularisation. Intraocular injections of anti-VEGF monoclonal antibodies or VEGF receptor immunofusions inhibit ocular neovascularisation in both primate and rodent models. Irrespective of the cause of induction of VEGF in human diabetic retinopathy, inhibition of ocular VEGF is suitable for treating this disease.

Expression of VEGF is also significantly increased in hypoxic regions of animal and human tumours adjacent to areas of necrosis. In addition, VEGF is upregulated by the expression of the oncogenes Ras, Raf, Src and mutant p53 (all of which are relevant in combating cancer). Anti-VEGF monoclonal antibodies inhibit the growth of human tumours in nude mice. Although the same tumour cells continue to express VEGF in culture, the antibodies do not diminish their mitotic rate. Thus, tumour-derived VEGF does not function as an autocrine mitogenic factor. VEGF therefore contributes to tumour growth in vivo by promoting angiogenesis through its paracrine vascular endothelial cell chemotactic and mitogenic activities. These monoclonal antibodies also inhibit the growth of typically less well vascularised human colon carcinomas in athymic mice and decrease the number of tumours arising from inoculated cells.

The expression of a VEGF-binding construct of Flk-1, Flt-1, the mouse KDR receptor homologue truncated to eliminate the cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase domains but retaining a membrane anchor, in viruses virtually stops the growth of a transplantable glioblastoma in mice, presumably by the dominant negative mechanism of heterodimer formation with membrane-spanning endothelial cell VEGF receptors.

Embryonic stem cells, which normally grow as solid tumours in nude mice, do not produce detectable tumours if both VEGF alleles are knocked out. Taken together, these data indicate the role of VEGF in the growth of solid tumours. Inhibition of KDR or Flt-1 is involved in pathological angiogenesis, and these receptors are suitable for the treatment of diseases in which angiogenesis is part of the overall pathology, for example inflammation, diabetic retinal vascularisation, as well as various forms of cancer, since tumour growth is known to be dependent on angiogenesis (Weidner et al., N. Engl. J. Med., 324, pp. 1-8, 1991).

Angiopoietin 1 (Ang1), a ligand for the endothelium-specific receptor-type tyrosine kinase TIE-2, is a novel angiogenic factor (Davis et al., Cell, 1996, 87:1161-1169; Partanen et al., Mol. Cell Biol., 12:1698-1707 (1992); US-Patent No. 5,521,073; 5,879,672; 5,877,020; and 6,030,831). The acronym TIE stands for "tyrosine kinase with Ig and EGF homology domains". TIE is used for the identification of a class of receptor-type tyrosine kinases which are expressed exclusively in vascular endothelial cells and early haemopoietic cells. TIE receptor kinases are typically characterised by the presence of an EGF-like domain and an immunoglobulin (Ig)like domain which consists of extracellular fold units stabilised by disulfide bridge bonds between the chains (Partanen et al. Curr. Topics Microbiol. Immunol., 1999, 237:159-172). In contrast to VEGF, which exerts its function during the early stages of vascular development, Ang1 and its receptor TIE-2 act during the later stages of vascular development, i.e. during vascular transformation (transformation relates to the formation of a vascular lumen) and maturing (Yancopoulos et al., Cell, 1998, 93:661-

664; Peters, K.G., Circ. Res., 1998, 83(3):342-3; Suri et al., Cell 87, 1171-1180 (1996)).

5 Accordingly, it would be expected that inhibition of TIE-2 should interrupt the transformation and maturing of a new vascular system initiated by angiogenesis and should thus interrupt the angiogenesis process. Furthermore, inhibition at the kinase domain binding site of VEGFR-2 would block phosphorylation of tyrosine residues and serve to interrupt initiation of
10 angiogenesis. It must therefore be assumed that inhibition of TIE-2 and/or VEGFR-2 should prevent tumour angiogenesis and serve to slow or completely eliminate tumour growth.

Accordingly, treatment of cancer and other diseases associated with inappropriate angiogenesis could be provided.

15 The present invention is directed to processes for the regulation, modulation or inhibition of TIE-2 for the prevention and/or treatment of diseases in connection with unregulated or disturbed TIE-2 activity. In particular, the
20 compounds according to the invention can also be employed in the treatment of certain forms of cancer. The compounds according to the invention can furthermore be used in order to provide additive or synergistic effects in certain existing cancer chemotherapies and/or can be used to
25 restore the efficacy of certain existing cancer chemotherapies and irradiations.

The present invention is directed to processes for the regulation, modulation or inhibition of VEGFR-2 for the prevention and/or treatment of diseases in connection with unregulated or disturbed VEGFR-2 activity.
30 The compounds according to the invention are aminobenzimidazole derivatives of TIE-2 and/or VEGFR-2 kinase activity.

35 The present invention furthermore relates to the compounds as inhibitors of Raf kinases.

Protein phosphorylation is a fundamental process for the regulation of cellular functions. The coordinated action of both protein kinases and phosphatases controls the degrees of phosphorylation and, hence, the activity of specific target proteins. One of the predominant roles of protein phosphorylation is in signal transduction, where extracellular signals are amplified and propagated by a cascade of protein phosphorylation and dephosphorylation events, for example in the p21^{ras}/Raf pathway.

The p21^{ras} gene was discovered as an oncogene of the Harvey (H-Ras) and Kirsten (K-Ras) rat sarcoma viruses. In humans, characteristic mutations in the cellular Ras gene (c-Ras) have been associated with many different types of cancer. These mutant alleles, which render Ras constitutively active, have been shown to transform cells, such as, for example, the murine cell line NIH 3T3, in culture.

The p21^{ras} oncogene is a major contributor to the development and progression of human solid carcinomas and is mutated in 30% of all human carcinomas (Bolton et al. (1994) *Ann. Rep. Med. Chem.*, 29, 165-74; Bos. (1989) *Cancer Res.*, 49, 4682-9). In its normal, unmutated form, the Ras protein is a key element of the signal transduction cascade directed by growth factor receptors in almost all tissues (Avruch et al. (1994) *Trends Biochem. Sci.*, 19, 279-83).

Biochemically, Ras is a guanine nucleotide binding protein, and cycling between a GTP-bound activated and a GDP-bound resting form is strictly controlled by Ras endogenous GTPase activity and other regulatory proteins. The Ras gene product binds to guanine triphosphate (GTP) and guanine diphosphate (GDP) and hydrolyses GTP to GDP. Ras is active in the GTP-bound state. In the Ras mutants in cancer cells, the endogenous GTPase activity is reduced and the protein consequently transmits constitutive growth signals to downstream effectors, such as, for example, the enzyme Raf kinase. This leads to the cancerous growth of the cells which

carry these mutants (Magnuson et al. (1994) *Semin. Cancer Biol.*, 5, 247-53). The Ras proto-oncogene requires a functionally intact C-Raf-1 proto-oncogene in order to transduce growth and differentiation signals initiated by receptor- and non-receptor-type tyrosine kinases in higher eukaryotes.

5

Activated Ras is necessary for the activation of the C-Raf-1 proto-oncogene, but the biochemical steps through which Ras activates the Raf-1 protein (Ser/Thr) kinase are now well characterised. It has been shown that inhibiting the effect of active Ras by inhibiting the Raf kinase signalling pathway by administration of deactivating antibodies to Raf kinase or by co-expression of dominant negative Raf kinase or dominant negative MEK (MAPKK), the substrate of Raf kinase, leads to reversion of transformed cells to the normal growth phenotype, see: Daum et al. (1994) *Trends Biochem. Sci.*, 19, 474-80; Fridman et al. (1994) *J Biol. Chem.*, 269, 30105-8. Kolch et al. (1991) *Nature*, 349, 426-28 and for a review Weinstein-Oppenheim et al. *Pharm. & Therap.* (2000), 88, 229-279.

10

15

20

Similarly, inhibition of Raf kinase (by antisense oligodeoxynucleotides) has been correlated in vitro and in vivo with inhibition of the growth of a variety of human tumour types (Monia et al., *Nat. Med.* 1996, 2, 668-75).

25

30

Raf serine- and threonine-specific protein kinases are cytosolic enzymes that stimulate cell growth in a variety of cellular systems (Rapp, U.R., et al. (1988) in *The Oncogene Handbook*; T. Curran, E.P. Reddy and A. Skalka (eds.) Elsevier Science Publishers; The Netherlands, pp. 213-253; Rapp, U.R., et al. (1988) *Cold Spring Harbor Sym. Quant. Biol.* 53:173-184; Rapp, U.R., et al. (1990) *Inv Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* Potter and Melchers (eds.), Berlin, Springer-Verlag 166:129-139).

Three isozymes have been characterised:

35

C-Raf (Raf-1) (Bonner, T.I., et al. (1986) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 14:1009-1015). A-Raf (Beck, T.W., et al. (1987) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 15:595-609) and B-Raf (Qkawa, S., et al. (1998) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 8:2651-2654; Sithanandam, G. et al. (1990) *Oncogene*:1775). These enzymes differ in their expression in various tissues. Raf-1 is expressed in all organs and in all cell lines that have been examined, and A- and B-Raf are expressed in urogenital and brain tissues respectively (Storm, S.M. (1990) *Oncogene* 5:345-351).

Raf genes are proto-oncogenes: they can initiate malignant transformation of cells when expressed in specifically altered forms. Genetic changes that lead to oncogenic activation generate a constitutively active protein kinase by removal of or interference with an N-terminal negative regulatory domain of the protein (Heidecker, G., et al. (1990) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 10:2503-2512; Rapp, U.R., et al. (1987) in *Oncogenes and Cancer*; S. A. Aaronson, J. Bishop, T. Sugimura, M. Terada, K. Toyoshima and P. K. Vogt (eds.) Japan Scientific Press, Tokyo). Microinjection into NIH 3T3 cells of oncogenically activated, but not wild-type, versions of the Raf protein prepared with *Escherichia coli* expression vectors results in morphological transformation and stimulates DNA synthesis (Rapp, U.R., et al. (1987) in *Oncogenes and Cancer*; S. A. Aaronson, J. Bishop, T. Sugimura, M. Terada, K. Toyoshima and P. K. Vogt (ed.) Japan Scientific Press, Tokyo; Smith, M. R., et al. (1990) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 10:3828-3833).

Consequently, activated Raf-1 is an intracellular activator of cell growth. Raf-1 protein serine kinase is a candidate for the downstream effector of mitogen signal transduction, since Raf oncogenes overcome growth arrest resulting from a block of cellular Ras activity due either to a cellular mutation (Ras revertant cells) or microinjection of anti-Ras antibodies (Rapp, U.R., et al. (1988) in *The Oncogene Handbook*, T. Curran, E.P. Reddy and A. Skalka (eds.), Elsevier Science Publishers; The Netherlands, pp. 213-253; Smith, M.R., et al. (1986) *Nature* (London) 320:540-543).

C-Raf function is required for transformation by a variety of membrane-bound oncogenes and for growth stimulation by mitogens contained in serums (Smith, M.R., et al. (1986) *Nature* (London) 320:540-543). Raf-1 protein serine kinase activity is regulated by mitogens via phosphorylation (Morrison, D.K., et al. (1989) *Cell* 58:648-657), which also effects sub-cellular distribution (Olah, Z., et al. (1991) *Exp. Brain Res.* 84:403; Rapp, U.R., et al. (1988) *Cold Spring Harbor Sym. Quant. Biol.* 53:173-184. Raf-1 activating growth factors include platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) (Morrison, D.K., et al. (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:8855-8859), colony-stimulating factor (Baccarini, M., et al. (1990) *EMBO J.* 9:3649-3657), insulin (Blackshear, P.J., et al. (1990) *J. Biol. Chem.* 265:12115-12118), epidermal growth factor (EGF) (Morrison, R.K., et al. (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:8855-8859), interleukin-2 (Turner, B.C., et al. (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:1227) and interleukin-3 and granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (Carroll, M.P., et al. (1990) *J. Biol. Chem.* 265:19812-19817).

After mitogen treatment of cells, the transiently activated Raf-1 protein serine kinase translocates to the perinuclear area and the nucleus (Olah, Z., et al. (1991) *Exp. Brain Res.* 84:403; Rapp, U.R., et al. (1988) *Cold Spring Harbor Sym. Quant. Biol.* 53:173-184). Cells containing activated Raf are altered in their pattern of gene expression (Heidecker, G., et al. (1989) in *Genes and signal transduction in multistage carcinogenesis*, N. Colburn (ed.), Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, pp. 339-374) and Raf oncogenes activate transcription from Ap-1/PEA3-dependent promoters in transient transfection assays (Jamal, S., et al. (1990) *Science* 344:463-466; Kaibuchi, K., et al. (1989) *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:20855-20858; Wasylyk, C., et al. (1989) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 9:2247-2250).

There are at least two independent pathways for Raf-1 activation by extracellular mitogens: one involving protein kinase C (KC) and a second initi-

ated by protein tyrosine kinases (Blackshear, P.J., et al. (1990) J. Biol. Chem. 265:12131-12134; Kovacina, K.S., et al. (1990) J. Biol. Chem. 265:12115-12118; Morrison, D.K., et al. (1988) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85:8855-8859; Siegel, J.N., et al. (1990) J. Biol. Chem. 265:18472-18480; Turner, B.C., et al. (1991) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88:1227). In each case, activation involves Raf-1 protein phosphorylation. Raf-1 phosphorylation may be a consequence of a kinase cascade amplified by autophosphorylation or may be caused entirely by autophosphorylation initiated by binding of a putative activating ligand to the Raf-1 regulatory domain, analogous to PKC activation by diacylglycerol (Nishizuka, Y. (1986) Science 233:305-312).

One of the principal mechanisms by which cellular regulation is effected is through the transduction of extracellular signals across the membrane that in turn modulate biochemical pathways within the cell. Protein phosphorylation represents one course by which intracellular signals are propagated from molecule to molecule resulting finally in a cellular response. These signal transduction cascades are highly regulated and often overlap, as is evident from the existence of many protein kinases as well as phosphatases. Phosphorylation of proteins occurs predominantly at serine, threonine or tyrosine residues, and protein kinases have therefore been classified by their specificity of phosphorylation site, i.e. serine/threonine kinases and tyrosine kinases. Since phosphorylation is such a ubiquitous process within cells and since cellular phenotypes are largely influenced by the activity of these pathways, it is currently believed that a number of disease states and/or diseases are attributable to either aberrant activation or functional mutations in the molecular components of kinase cascades. Consequently, considerable attention has been devoted to the characterisation of these proteins and compounds that are able to modulate their activity (for a review see: Weinstein-Oppenheim et al. Pharma. & Therap., 2000, 88, 229-279).

The identification of small compounds which specifically inhibit, regulate and/or modulate signal transduction of tyrosine kinases and/or Raf kinases is therefore desirable and an aim of the present invention.

5 It has been found that the compounds according to the invention and salts thereof have very valuable pharmacological properties while being well tolerated. In particular, they exhibit tyrosine kinase inhibiting properties.

10 It has furthermore been found that the compounds according to the invention are inhibitors of the enzyme Raf kinase. Since the enzyme is a downstream effector of p21^{ras}, the inhibitors prove to be suitable in pharmaceutical compositions for use in human or veterinary medicine where inhibition of the Raf kinase pathway is indicated, for example in the treatment of
15 tumours and/or cancerous cell growth mediated by Raf kinase. In particular, the compounds are suitable for the treatment of human and animal solid cancers, for example murine cancer, since the progression of these cancers is dependent upon the Ras protein signal transduction cascade and therefore susceptible to treatment by interruption of the cascade, i.e.
20 by inhibiting Raf kinase. Accordingly, the compound according to the invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered for the treatment of diseases mediated by the Raf kinase pathway, especially cancer, including solid cancers, such as, for example, carcinomas (for
25 example of the lungs, pancreas, thyroid, bladder or colon), myeloid diseases (for example myeloid leukaemia) or adenomas (for example villous colon adenoma), pathological angiogenesis and metastatic cell migration. The compounds are furthermore suitable for the treatment of complement
30 activation dependent chronic inflammation (Niculescu et al. (2002) Immunol. Res., 24:191-199) and HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus type 1) induced immunodeficiency (Popik et al. (1998) J Virol, 72: 6406-6413).

Surprisingly, it has been found that compounds according to the invention are able to interact with signalling pathways, especially the signalling pathways described herein and preferably the Raf kinase signalling pathway. Compounds according to the invention preferably exhibit an advantageous biological activity which is easily demonstrated in enzyme-based assays, for example assays as described herein. In such enzyme-based assays, the compounds according to the invention exhibit an effect, preferably an inhibiting effect, which is usually documented by IC_{50} values in a suitable range, preferably in the micromolar range and more preferably in the nanomolar range.

As discussed herein, these signalling pathways are relevant for various diseases. Accordingly, the compounds according to the invention are suitable for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of diseases that are dependent on the said signalling pathways by interacting with one or more of the said signalling pathways.

The present invention therefore relates to compounds according to the invention as promoters or inhibitors, preferably as inhibitors, of the signalling pathways described herein. The invention therefore preferably relates to compounds according to the invention as promoters or inhibitors, preferably as inhibitors, of the Raf kinase pathway. The invention therefore preferably relates to derivatives according to the invention as promoters or inhibitors, preferably as inhibitors, of Raf kinase. The invention still more preferably relates to compounds according to the invention as promoters or inhibitors, preferably as inhibitors, of one or more Raf kinases selected from the group consisting of A-Raf, B-Raf and C-Raf-1. The invention particularly preferably relates to compounds according to the invention as promoters or inhibitors, preferably as inhibitors, of C-Raf-1.

The present invention furthermore relates to the use of one or more compounds according to the invention in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases, preferably the diseases described herein, that are caused, medi-

ated and/or propagated by Raf kinases and in particular diseases that are caused, mediated and/or propagated by Raf kinases selected from the group consisting of A-Raf, B-Raf and C-Raf-1. The diseases discussed herein are usually divided into two groups, hyperproliferative and non-hyperproliferative diseases. In this connection, psoriasis, arthritis, inflammation, endometriosis, scarring, benign prostatic hyperplasia, immunological diseases, autoimmune diseases and immunodeficiency diseases are to be regarded as non-cancerous diseases, of which arthritis, inflammation, immunological diseases, autoimmune diseases and immunodeficiency diseases are usually regarded as non-hyperproliferative diseases. In this connection, brain cancer, lung cancer, squamous cell cancer, bladder cancer, gastric cancer, pancreatic cancer, hepatic cancer, renal cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, head cancer, neck cancer, oesophageal cancer, gynaecological cancer, thyroid cancer, lymphoma, chronic leukaemia and acute leukaemia are to be regarded as cancerous diseases, all of which are usually regarded as hyperproliferative diseases. Especially cancerous cell growth and especially cancerous cell growth mediated by Raf kinase is a disease which is a target of the present invention. The present invention therefore relates to compounds according to the invention as medicaments and/or medicament active ingredients in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of the said diseases and to the use of compounds according to the invention for the preparation of a pharmaceutical for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of the said diseases as well as to a method for the treatment of the said diseases which comprises the administration of one or more compounds according to the invention to a patient in need of such an administration.

It can be shown that the compounds according to the invention have an antiproliferative action in vivo in a xenotransplant tumour model. The compounds according to the invention are administered to a patient having a hyperproliferative disease, for example to inhibit tumour growth, to reduce inflammation associated with a lymphoproliferative disease, to inhibit trans-

plant rejection or neurological damage due to tissue repair, etc. The present compounds are suitable for prophylactic or therapeutic purposes. As used herein, the term "treatment" is used to refer to both prevention of diseases and treatment of pre-existing conditions. The prevention of proliferation is achieved by administration of the compounds according to the invention prior to the development of overt disease, for example to prevent the growth of tumours, prevent metastatic growth, diminish restenosis associated with cardiovascular surgery, etc. Alternatively, the compounds are used for the treatment of ongoing diseases by stabilising or improving the clinical symptoms of the patient.

The host or patient can belong to any mammalian species, for example a primate species, particularly humans; rodents, including mice, rats and hamsters; rabbits; horses, cows, dogs, cats, etc. Animal models are of interest for experimental investigations, providing a model for treatment of human disease.

The susceptibility of a particular cell to treatment with the compounds according to the invention can be determined by in vitro tests. Typically, a culture of the cell is combined with a compound according to the invention at various concentrations for a period of time which is sufficient to allow the active agents to induce cell death or to inhibit migration, usually between about one hour and one week. In vitro testing can be carried out using cultivated cells from a biopsy sample. The viable cells remaining after the treatment are then counted.

The dose varies depending on the specific compound used, the specific disease, the patient status, etc. A therapeutic dose is typically sufficient considerably to reduce the undesired cell population in the target tissue while the viability of the patient is maintained. The treatment is generally continued until a considerable reduction has occurred, for example an at least about 50% reduction in the cell burden, and may be continued until essentially no more undesired cells are detected in the body.

For the identification of kinase inhibitors, various assay systems are available. In scintillation proximity assay (Sorg et al., J. of Biomolecular Screening, 2002, 7, 11-19) and flashplate assay, the radioactive phosphorylation of a protein or peptide as substrate with γ ATP is measured. In the presence of an inhibitory compound, a decreased radioactive signal, or none at all, is detectable. Furthermore, homogeneous time-resolved fluorescence resonance energy transfer (HTR-FRET) and fluorescence polarisation (FP) technologies are suitable as assay methods (Sills et al., J. of Biomolecular Screening, 2002, 191-214).

Other non-radioactive ELISA assay methods use specific phospho-antibodies (phospho-ABs). The phospho-AB binds only the phosphorylated substrate. This binding can be detected by chemiluminescence using a second peroxidase-conjugated anti-sheep antibody (Ross et al., 2002, Biochem. J., just about to be published, manuscript BJ20020786).

There are many diseases associated with deregulation of cellular proliferation and cell death (apoptosis). The conditions of interest include, but are not limited to, the following. The compounds according to the invention are suitable for the treatment of a number of conditions where there is proliferation and/or migration of smooth muscle cells and/or inflammatory cells into the intimal layer of a vessel, resulting in restricted blood flow through that vessel, for example in the case of neointimal occlusive lesions. Occlusive vascular diseases of interest include atherosclerosis, graft coronary vascular disease after transplantation, vein graft stenosis, peri-anastomatic prosthetic restenosis, restenosis after angioplasty or stent placement, and the like.

The compounds according to the invention are also suitable as p38 kinase inhibitors.

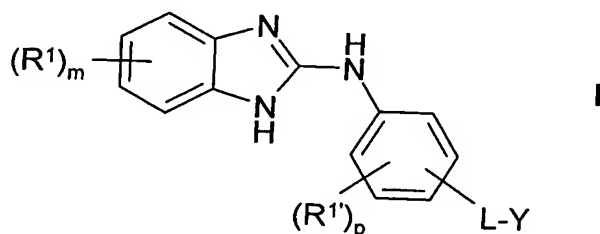
Other heteroarylureas which inhibit p38 kinase are described in WO 02/85859.

PRIOR ART

WO 02/44156 describes benzimidazole derivatives other than TIE-2 and/or VEGFR2 inhibitors. WO 99/32436 discloses substituted phenylureas as Raf kinase inhibitors. WO 02/062763 and WO 02/085857 disclose quinolyl-, isoquinolyl- and pyridylurea derivatives as Raf kinase inhibitors. Heteroarylureas as p38 kinase inhibitors are described in WO 02/85859. ω -Carboxyaryldiphenylureas are described in WO 00/42012 as Raf kinase inhibitors and in WO 00/41698 as p38 kinase inhibitors. Other aryl- and heteroaryl-substituted heterocyclic ureas are disclosed in WO 99/32455 as Raf kinase inhibitors and in WO 99/32110 as p38 kinase inhibitors. Other diphenylurea derivatives are known from WO 99/32463. Substituted heterocyclic urea derivatives as p38 kinase inhibitors are disclosed in WO 99/32111.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to compounds of the formula I

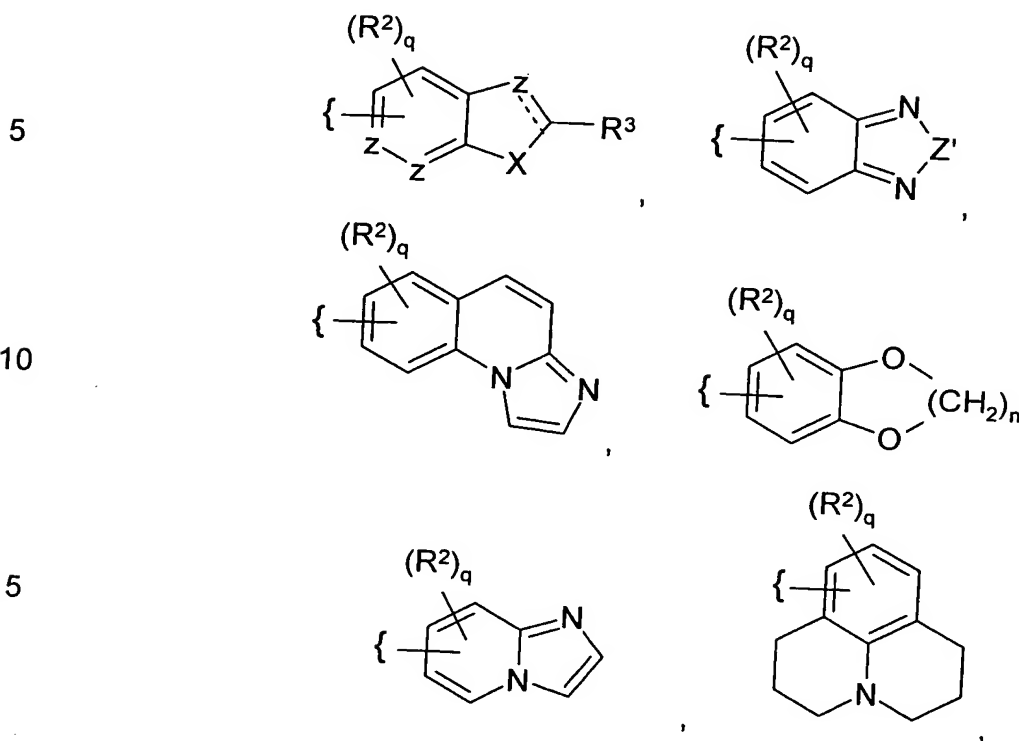


in which

R^1 , $R^{1'}$ each, independently of one another, denote Hal, A, OH, OA, CN, COOH, COOA, CONH₂, CONHA or CONA₂,

L denotes CH₂, CH₂CH₂, O, S, SO, SO₂, NH, NA, C=O or CHOH,

Y denotes a heterocycle selected from the list



20 R^2 denotes Hal, A, OH, OA, CN, COOH, COOA, CONH₂, CONHA or CONA₂,

R^3 denotes H, A, NH₂, COOH, COOA, CONH₂, CONHA, CONA₂ or NHCOOA,

25 X denotes S, O, NH, NA or CH₂,

Z denotes -CH=, CH₂, NH, -N= or C=O,

Z' denotes S or O,

30 A denotes unbranched, branched or cyclic alkyl having 1-10 C atoms, in which, in addition, 1-7 H atoms may be replaced by F and/or chlorine,

Hal denotes F, Cl, Br or I,

m, p, q each, independently of one another, denote 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

n denotes 1, 2 or 3,

35 and pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates, salts and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios.

The invention also relates to the optically active forms (stereoisomers), the enantiomers, the racemates, the diastereomers and the hydrates and solvates of these compounds. The term solvates of the compounds is taken to mean adductions of inert solvent molecules onto the compounds which form owing to their mutual attractive force. Solvates are, for example, monohydrates or dihydrates or alkoxides.

The term pharmaceutically usable derivatives is taken to mean, for example, the salts of the compounds according to the invention and also so-called prodrug compounds.

The term prodrug derivatives is taken to mean compounds of the formula I which have been modified by means of, for example, alkyl or acyl groups, sugars or oligopeptides and which are rapidly cleaved in the organism to form the effective compounds according to the invention.

These also include biodegradable polymer derivatives of the compounds according to the invention, as described, for example, in Int. J. Pharm. 115, 61-67 (1995).

The expression "effective amount" denotes the amount of a medicament or of a pharmaceutical active ingredient which causes in a tissue, system, animal or human a biological or medical response which is sought or desired, for example, by a researcher or physician.

In addition, the expression "therapeutically effective amount" denotes an amount which, compared with a corresponding subject who has not received this amount, has the following consequence: improved treatment, healing, prevention or elimination of a disease, syndrome, disease state, complaint, disorder or prevention of side effects or also the reduction in the progress of a disease, complaint, disorder or side-effects or also the reduction in the progress of a disease, complaint or disorder.

The expression "therapeutically effective amount" also encompasses the amounts which are effective for increasing normal physiological function.

5 The invention also relates to mixtures of the compounds of the formula I according to the invention, for example mixtures of two diastereomers, for example in the ratio 1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:4, 1:5, 1:10, 1:100 or 1:1000.

These are particularly preferably mixtures of stereoisomeric compounds.

10 For all radicals which occur more than once, such as, for example, R^1 , their meanings are independent of one another.

Above and below, the radicals or parameters R^1 , L, Y, m and p have the meanings indicated for the formula I, unless expressly stated otherwise.

15 A denotes alkyl, is unbranched (linear) or branched, and has 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 C atoms. A preferably denotes methyl, furthermore ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl or tert-butyl, furthermore also
20 pentyl, 1-, 2- or 3-methylbutyl, 1,1-, 1,2- or 2,2-dimethylpropyl, 1-ethylpropyl, hexyl, 1-, 2-, 3- or 4-methylpentyl, 1,1-, 1,2-, 1,3-, 2,2-, 2,3- or 3,3-dimethylbutyl, 1- or 2-ethylbutyl, 1-ethyl-1-methylpropyl, 1-ethyl-2-methylpropyl, 1,1,2- or 1,2,2-trimethylpropyl, furthermore preferably, for example, trifluoromethyl.

25 A very particularly preferably denotes alkyl having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 C atoms, preferably methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl or 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl. A also denotes cycloalkyl.

30 Cycloalkyl preferably denotes cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or cycloheptyl.

35 R^1 preferably denotes A or Hal, such as, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl, fluorine or chlorine; particular preference is given to trifluoromethyl, F or Br.

5 R^1 preferably denotes A or Hal, such as, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl, fluorine or bromine; very particularly preferably methyl, ethyl, propyl, fluorine or bromine.

L preferably denotes O, S or CH_2 , particularly preferably O.

10 R^2 preferably denotes A, for example methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl or pentyl; COOA, such as, for example, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl; or $CONH_2$.

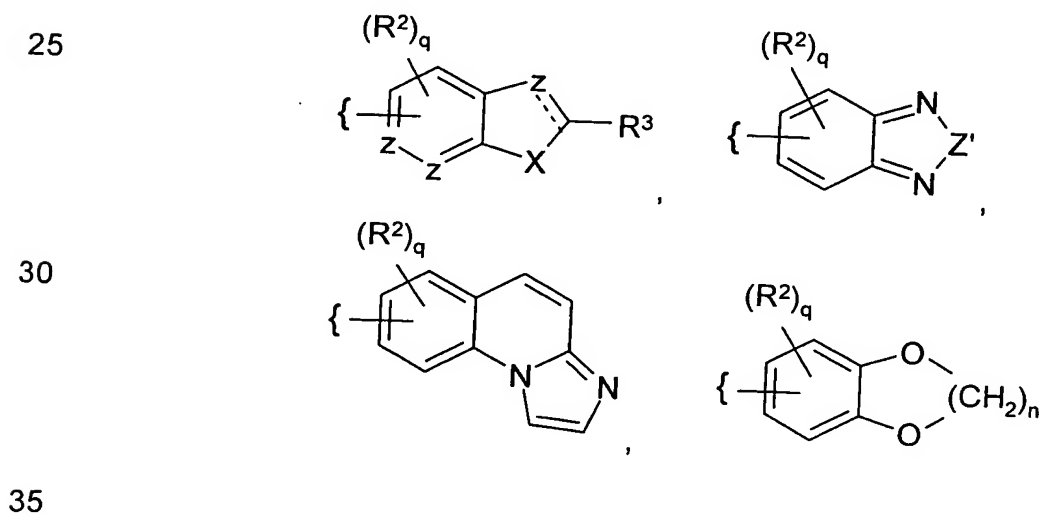
15 R^3 preferably denotes H, NH_2 or COOA, such as, for example, methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl.

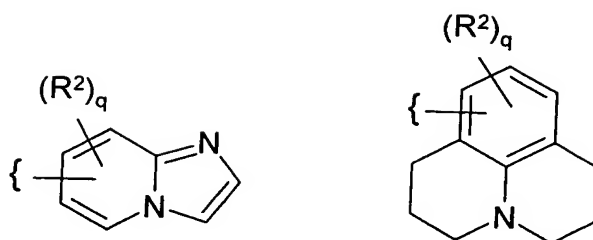
m preferably denotes 1, 2 or 3.

p preferably denotes 0 or 1.

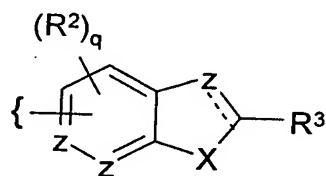
20 q preferably denotes 0 or 1.

In the meanings of Y





the radicals R^2 and the linking bond $\{ \}$ can adopt any position in the bi- or tricyclic ring system and are not restricted to the ring as indicated in the formulae.



In , the dots mean that either a single or a double bond can be present here.

The compounds of the formula I can have one or more chiral centres and therefore exist in various stereoisomeric forms. The formula I encompasses all these forms.

Accordingly, the invention relates, in particular, to the compounds of the formula I in which at least one of the said radicals has one of the preferred meanings indicated above. Some preferred groups of compounds may be expressed by the following sub-formulae Ia to Ig, which conform to the formula I and in which the radicals not designated in greater detail have the meaning indicated for the formula I, but in which

in Ia R^1 denotes A or Hal,
m denotes 1, 2 or 3;

in Ib R^1 denotes CF_3 , F or Br,

m denotes 1, 2 or 3;

in Ic $R^{1'}$ denotes Hal or A,
p denotes 0 or 1;

5

in Id L denotes O, S or CH_2 ;

in Ie R^2 denotes A, COOA or $CONH_2$,
q denotes 0, 1 or 2;

10

in If R^3 denotes H, NH_2 or COOA;

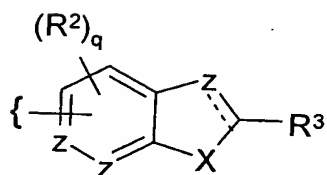
in Ig R^1 denotes A or Hal,
m denotes 1, 2 or 3,
 $R^{1'}$ denotes Hal or A,
p denotes 0 or 1,

15

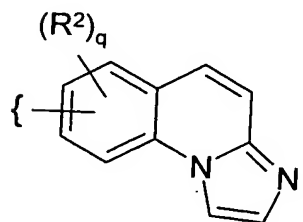
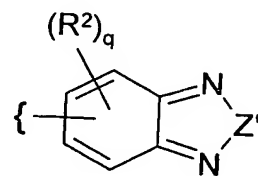
L denotes O, S or CH_2 ,

20

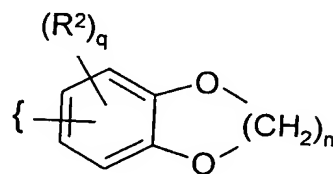
Y denotes a heterocycle selected from the list



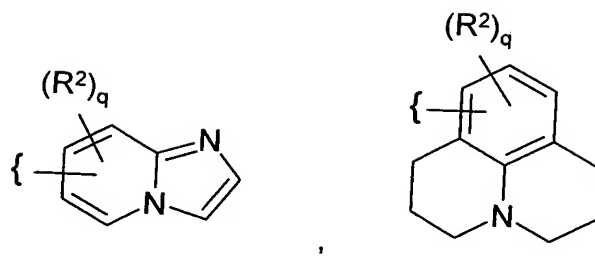
25



30



35

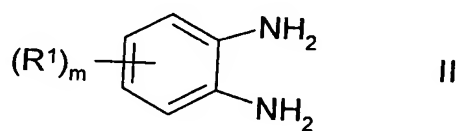


R^2 denotes A, COOA or CONH₂,
 q denotes 0, 1 or 2,
 R^3 denotes H, NH₂ or COOA,
 n denotes 1, 2 or 3;

and pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates, salts and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios.

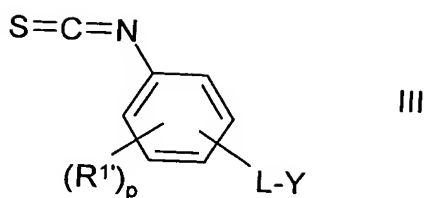
The invention relates to the compounds of the formula I and salts thereof and to a process for the preparation of compounds of the formula I according to Claims 1-10 and pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates, salts and stereoisomers thereof, characterised in that

a compound of the formula II



in which R^1 and m have the meanings indicated in Claim 1,

is reacted with a compound of the formula III



5

in which R^{1'}, L, Y and p have the meanings indicated in Claim 1,

and/or a base or acid of the formula I is converted into one of its salts.

10

The compounds according to the invention and also the starting materials for the preparation thereof are, in addition, prepared by methods known per se, as described in the literature (for example in the standard works, such as Houben-Weyl, Methoden der organischen Chemie [Methods of Organic Chemistry], Georg-Thieme-Verlag, Stuttgart), to be precise under reaction conditions which are known and suitable for the said reactions. Use can also be made here of variants which are known per se, but are not mentioned here in greater detail.

15

20

If desired, the starting materials can also be formed in situ so that they are not isolated from the reaction mixture, but instead are immediately converted further into the compounds according to the invention.

25

Compounds of the formula I are preferably obtained by reacting compounds of the formula II with compounds of the formula III.

30

The reaction is generally carried out in an inert solvent, in the presence of a coupling reagent, such as, for example, N,N'-diisopropylcarbodiimide. Depending on the conditions used, the reaction time is between a few minutes and 14 days, the reaction temperature is between about 0° and 150°, normally between 20° and 130°.

35

Examples of suitable inert solvents are hydrocarbons, such as hexane, petroleum ether, benzene, toluene or xylene; chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as trichloroethylene, 1,2-dichloroethane, tetrachloromethane, chloroform or dichloromethane; alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, n-butanol or tert-butanol; ethers, such as diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF) or dioxane; glycol ethers, such as ethylene glycol monomethyl or monoethyl ether or ethylene glycol dimethyl ether (diglyme); ketones, such as acetone or butanone; amides, such as acetamide, dimethylacetamide or dimethylformamide (DMF); nitriles, such as acetonitrile; sulfoxides, such as dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO); carbon disulfide; carboxylic acids, such as formic acid or acetic acid; nitro compounds, such as nitromethane or nitrobenzene; esters, such as ethyl acetate, or mixtures of the said solvents.

The starting compounds are generally known. If they are novel, however, they can be prepared by methods known per se.

The thioisocyanates of the formula III are preferably from the corresponding aniline derivatives by reaction with, for example, 1,1'-thiocarbonyldiimidazole.

A base of the compounds according to the invention can be converted into the associated acid-addition salt using an acid, for example by reaction of equivalent amounts of the base and the acid in an inert solvent, such as ethanol, followed by evaporation. Suitable acids for this reaction are, in particular, those which give physiologically acceptable salts. Thus, it is possible to use inorganic acids, for example sulfuric acid, nitric acid, hydrohalic acids, such as hydrochloric acid or hydrobromic acid, phosphoric acids, such as orthophosphoric acid, or sulfamic acid, furthermore organic acids, in particular aliphatic, alicyclic, araliphatic, aromatic or heterocyclic monobasic or polybasic carboxylic, sulfonic or sulfuric acids, for example formic acid, acetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, propionic acid, pivalic acid, diethylacetic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, pimelic acid, fumaric acid,

maleic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, malic acid, citric acid, gluconic acid, ascorbic acid, nicotinic acid, isonicotinic acid, methane- or ethanesulfonic acid, ethanedisulfonic acid, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, naphthalenemono- and -disulfonic acids and laurylsulfuric acid. Salts with physiologically unacceptable acids, for example picrates, can be used for the isolation and/or purification of the compounds according to the invention.

The invention furthermore relates to the use of the compounds and/or physiologically acceptable salts thereof for the preparation of a medication (pharmaceutical composition), in particular by non-chemical methods. They can be converted into a suitable dosage form here together with at least one solid, liquid and/or semi-liquid excipient or adjuvant and, if desired, in combination with one or more further active ingredients.

The invention furthermore relates to medicaments comprising at least one compound according to the invention and/or pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios, and optionally excipients and/or adjuvants.

Pharmaceutical formulations can be administered in the form of dosage units which comprise a predetermined amount of active ingredient per dosage unit. Such a unit can comprise, for example, 0.5 mg to 1 g, preferably 1 mg to 700 mg, particularly preferably 5 mg to 100 mg, of a compound according to the invention, depending on the disease condition treated, the method of administration and the age, weight and condition of the patient, or pharmaceutical formulations can be administered in the form of dosage units which comprise a predetermined amount of active ingredient per dosage unit. Preferred dosage unit formulations are those which comprise a daily dose or part-dose, as indicated above, or a corresponding fraction thereof of an active ingredient. Furthermore, pharma-

ceutical formulations of this type can be prepared using a process which is generally known in the pharmaceutical art.

5 Pharmaceutical formulations can be adapted for administration via any desired suitable method, for example by oral (including buccal or sublingual), rectal, nasal, topical (including buccal, sublingual or transdermal), vaginal or parenteral (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous or intradermal) methods. Such formulations can be prepared using all
10 processes known in the pharmaceutical art by, for example, combining the active ingredient with the excipient(s) or adjuvant(s).

15 Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for oral administration can be administered as separate units, such as, for example, capsules or tablets; powders or granules; solutions or suspensions in aqueous or non-aqueous liquids; edible foams or foam foods; or oil-in-water liquid emulsions or water-in-oil liquid emulsions.

20 Thus, for example, in the case of oral administration in the form of a tablet or capsule, the active-ingredient component can be combined with an oral, non-toxic and pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipient, such as, for example, ethanol, glycerol, water and the like. Powders are prepared by
25 comminuting the compound to a suitable fine size and mixing it with a pharmaceutical excipient comminuted in a similar manner, such as, for example, an edible carbohydrate, such as, for example, starch or mannitol. A flavour, preservative, dispersant and dye may likewise be present.

30 Capsules are produced by preparing a powder mixture as described above and filling shaped gelatine shells therewith. Glidants and lubricants, such as, for example, highly disperse silicic acid, talc, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate or polyethylene glycol in solid form, can be added to the
35 powder mixture before the filling operation. A disintegrant or solubiliser,

such as, for example, agar-agar, calcium carbonate or sodium carbonate, may likewise be added in order to improve the availability of the medication after the capsule has been taken.

5 In addition, if desired or necessary, suitable binders, lubricants and disintegrants as well as dyes can likewise be incorporated into the mixture. Suitable binders include starch, gelatine, natural sugars, such as, for example, glucose or beta-lactose, sweeteners made from maize, natural
10 and synthetic rubber, such as, for example, acacia, tragacanth or sodium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, polyethylene glycol, waxes, and the like. The lubricants used in these dosage forms include sodium oleate, sodium stearate, magnesium stearate, sodium benzoate, sodium acetate, sodium chloride and the like. The disintegrants include, without being restricted
15 thereto, starch, methylcellulose, agar, bentonite, xanthan gum and the like. The tablets are formulated by, for example, preparing a powder mixture, granulating or dry-pressing the mixture, adding a lubricant and a disintegrant and pressing the entire mixture to give tablets. A powder mixture is
20 prepared by mixing the compound comminuted in a suitable manner with a diluent or a base, as described above, and optionally with a binder, such as, for example, carboxymethylcellulose, an alginate, gelatine or polyvinylpyrrolidone, a dissolution retardant, such as, for example, paraffin, an
25 absorption accelerator, such as, for example, a quaternary salt, and/or an absorbant, such as, for example, bentonite, kaolin or dicalcium phosphate. The powder mixture can be granulated by wetting it with a binder, such as, for example, syrup, starch paste, acacia mucilage or solutions of cellulose
30 or polymer materials and pressing it through a sieve. As an alternative to granulation, the powder mixture can be run through a tableting machine, giving lumps of non-uniform shape which are broken up to form granules. The granules can be lubricated by addition of stearic acid, a stearate salt, talc or mineral oil in order to prevent sticking to the tablet casting moulds.
35 The lubricated mixture is then pressed to give tablets. The compounds according to the invention can also be combined with a free-flowing inert

excipient and then pressed directly to give tablets without carrying out the granulation or dry-pressing steps. A transparent or opaque protective layer consisting of a shellac sealing layer, a layer of sugar or polymer material and a gloss layer of wax may be present. Dyes can be added to these coatings in order to be able to differentiate between different dosage units.

Oral liquids, such as, for example, solution, syrups and elixirs, can be prepared in the form of dosage units so that a given quantity comprises a pre-specified amount of the compounds. Syrups can be prepared by dissolving the compound in an aqueous solution with a suitable flavour, while elixirs are prepared using a non-toxic alcoholic vehicle. Suspensions can be formulated by dispersion of the compound in a non-toxic vehicle. Solubilisers and emulsifiers, such as, for example, ethoxylated isostearyl alcohols and polyoxyethylene sorbitol ethers, preservatives, flavour additives, such as, for example, peppermint oil or natural sweeteners or saccharin, or other artificial sweeteners and the like, can likewise be added.

The dosage unit formulations for oral administration can, if desired, be encapsulated in microcapsules. The formulation can also be prepared in such a way that the release is extended or retarded, such as, for example, by coating or embedding of particulate material in polymers, wax and the like.

The compounds according to the invention and salts, solvates and physiologically functional derivatives thereof can also be administered in the form of liposome delivery systems, such as, for example, small unilamellar vesicles, large unilamellar vesicles and multilamellar vesicles. Liposomes can be formed from various phospholipids, such as, for example, cholesterol, stearylamine or phosphatidylcholines.

The compounds according to the invention and the salts, solvates and physiologically functional derivatives thereof can also be delivered using monoclonal antibodies as individual carriers to which the compound molecules are coupled. The compounds can also be coupled to soluble polymers as targeted medicament carriers. Such polymers may encompass polyvinylpyrrolidone, pyran copolymer, polyhydroxypropylmethacrylamidophenol, polyhydroxyethylaspartamidophenol or polyethylene oxide polylysine, substituted by palmitoyl radicals. The compounds may furthermore be coupled to a class of biodegradable polymers which are suitable for achieving controlled release of a medicament, for example polylactic acid, poly-epsilon-caprolactone, polyhydroxybutyric acid, polyorthoesters, polyacetals, polydihydroxypyranes, polycyanoacrylates and crosslinked or amphipathic block copolymers of hydrogels.

Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for transdermal administration can be administered as independent plasters for extended, close contact with the epidermis of the recipient. Thus, for example, the active ingredient can be delivered from the plaster by iontophoresis, as described in general terms in *Pharmaceutical Research*, 3(6), 318 (1986).

Pharmaceutical compounds adapted for topical administration can be formulated as ointments, creams, suspensions, lotions, powders, solutions, pastes, gels, sprays, aerosols or oils.

For the treatment of the eye or other external tissue, for example mouth and skin, the formulations are preferably applied as topical ointment or cream. In the case of formulation to give an ointment, the active ingredient can be employed either with a paraffinic or a water-miscible cream base. Alternatively, the active ingredient can be formulated to give a cream with an oil-in-water cream base or a water-in-oil base.

Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for topical application to the eye include eye drops, in which the active ingredient is dissolved or suspended in a suitable carrier, in particular an aqueous solvent.

5 Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for topical application in the mouth encompass lozenges, pastilles and mouthwashes.

10 Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for rectal administration can be administered in the form of suppositories or enemas.

15 Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for nasal administration in which the carrier substance is a solid comprise a coarse powder having a particle size, for example, in the range 20-500 microns, which is administered in the manner in which snuff is taken, i.e. by rapid inhalation via the nasal passages from a container containing the powder held close to the nose. Suitable formulations for administration as nasal spray or nose drops with a liquid as carrier substance encompass active-ingredient solutions in water or oil.

20

25 Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for administration by inhalation encompass finely particulate dusts or mists, which can be generated by various types of pressurised dispensers with aerosols, nebulisers or insufflators.

30 Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for vaginal administration can be administered as pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or spray formulations.

35 Pharmaceutical formulations adapted for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous sterile injection solutions comprising antioxidants, buffers, bacteriostatics and solutes, by means of which the formula-

tion is rendered isotonic with the blood of the recipient to be treated; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions, which may comprise suspension media and thickeners. The formulations can be administered in single-dose or multidose containers, for example sealed ampoules and vials, and stored in freeze-dried (lyophilised) state, so that only the addition of the sterile carrier liquid, for example water for injection purposes, immediately before use is necessary.

Injection solutions and suspensions prepared in accordance with the recipe can be prepared from sterile powders, granules and tablets.

It goes without saying that, in addition to the above particularly mentioned constituents, the formulations may also comprise other agents usual in the art with respect to the particular type of formulation; thus, for example, formulations which are suitable for oral administration may comprise flavours.

A therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the present invention depends on a number of factors, including, for example, the age and weight of the animal, the precise disease condition which requires treatment, and its severity, the nature of the formulation and the method of administration, and is ultimately determined by the treating doctor or vet. However, an effective amount of a compound according to the invention for the treatment of neoplastic growth, for example colon or breast carcinoma, is generally in the range from 0.1 to 100 mg/kg of body weight of the recipient (mammal) per day and particularly typically in the range from 1 to 10 mg/kg of body weight per day. Thus, the actual amount per day for an adult mammal weighing 70 kg is usually between 70 and 700 mg, where this amount can be administered as an individual dose per day or usually in a series of part-doses (such as, for example, two, three, four, five or six) per day, so that the total daily dose is the same. An effective

amount of a salt or solvate or of a physiologically functional derivative thereof can be determined as the fraction of the effective amount of the compound according to the invention *per se*. It can be assumed that similar doses are suitable for the treatment of other conditions mentioned above.

The invention furthermore relates to medicaments comprising at least one compound according to the invention and/or pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios, and at least one further medicament active ingredient.

The invention also relates to a set (kit) consisting of separate packs of

- (a) an effective amount of a compound according to the invention and/or pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates, salts and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios, and
- (b) an effective amount of a further medicament active ingredient.

The set comprises suitable containers, such as boxes, individual bottles, bags or ampoules. The set may, for example, comprise separate ampoules, each containing an effective amount of a compound according to the invention and/or pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates, salts and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios, and an effective amount of a further medicament active ingredient in dissolved or lyophilised form.

USE

The present compounds are suitable as pharmaceutical active ingredients for mammals, especially for humans, in the treatment of tyrosine kinase-induced diseases. These diseases include the proliferation of tumour cells,

pathological neovascularisation (or angiogenesis) which promotes the growth of solid tumours, ocular neovascularisation (diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration and the like) and inflammation (psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis and the like).

5

10

15

The present invention encompasses the use of compounds according to the invention according to Claim 1 and/or physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of cancer. Preferred carcinomas for the treatment originate from the group cerebral carcinoma, urogenital tract carcinoma, carcinoma of the lymphatic system, stomach carcinoma, laryngeal carcinoma and lung carcinoma. A further group of preferred forms of cancer are monocytic leukaemia, lung adenocarcinoma, small cell lung carcinomas, pancreatic cancer, glioblastomas and breast carcinoma.

20

Also encompassed is the use of compounds of the formula I according to Claim 1 and/or physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a disease in which angiogenesis is implicated. Such a disease in which angiogenesis is implicated is an ocular disease, such as retinal vascularisation, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration and the like.

25

The use of compounds according to the invention according to Claim 1 and/or physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of inflammatory diseases also falls within the scope of the present invention. Examples of such inflammatory diseases include rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, contact dermatitis, delayed hypersensitivity reactions and the like.

30

35

Also encompassed is the use of compounds according to the invention according to Claim 1 and/or physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a tyrosine kinase-induced disease or a tyrosine kinase-induced condition in a mammal, in which a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to the invention is administered to a sick mammal in need

of such treatment. The therapeutic amount varies according to the specific disease and can be determined by the person skilled in the art without undue effort.

The present invention also encompasses the use of compounds according to the invention according to Claim 1 and/or physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of retinal vascularisation.

Methods for the treatment or prevention of ocular diseases, such as diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration, are likewise part of the invention. The use for the treatment or prevention of inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, contact dermatitis and delayed hypersensitivity reactions, as well as the treatment or prevention of bone pathologies from the group osteosarcoma, osteoarthritis and rickets, likewise falls within the scope of the present invention.

The term "tyrosine kinase-induced diseases or conditions" refers to pathological conditions that depend on the activity of one or more tyrosine kinases. Tyrosine kinases either directly or indirectly participate in the signal transduction pathways of a variety of cellular activities, including proliferation, adhesion and migration and differentiation. Diseases associated with tyrosine kinase activity include proliferation of tumour cells, pathological neovascularisation that promotes the growth of solid tumours, ocular neovascularisation (diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration and the like) and inflammation (psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis and the like).

The compounds according to the invention according to Claim 1 can be administered to patients for the treatment of cancer. The present compounds inhibit tumour angiogenesis, thereby affecting the growth of tumours (J. Rak et al. *Cancer Research*, 55:4575-4580, 1995). The angiogenesis-inhibiting properties of the present compounds according to the invention according to Claim 1 are also suitable for the treatment of certain forms of blindness related to retinal neovascularisation.

The compounds according to Claim 1 are also suitable for the treatment of certain bone pathologies, such as osteosarcoma, osteoarthritis and rickets, also known as oncogenic osteomalacia (Hasegawa et al., *Skeletal Radiol.* 28, pp.41-45, 1999; Gerber et al., *Nature Medicine*, Vol. 5, No. 6, pp.623-628, June 1999). Since VEGF directly promotes osteoclastic bone resorption through KDR/Flk-1 expressed in mature osteoclasts (*FEBS Let.* 473:161-164 (2000); *Endocrinology*, 141:1667 (2000)), the present compounds are also suitable for the treatment and prevention of conditions related to bone resorption, such as osteoporosis and Paget's disease.

The compounds can also be used for the reduction or prevention of tissue damage which occurs after cerebral ischaemic events, such as strokes, by reducing cerebral oedema, tissue damage and reperfusion injury following ischaemia (*Drug News Perspect* 11:265-270 (1998); *J. Clin. Invest.* 104:1613-1620 (1999)).

The invention thus relates to the use of compounds according to Claim 1, and pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates, salts and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases in which the inhibition, regulation and/or modulation of kinase signal transduction plays a role.

Preference is given here to kinases selected from the group consisting of tyrosine kinases and Raf kinases.

The tyrosine kinases are preferably TIE-2.

Preference is given to the use of compounds according to Claim 1, and pharmaceutically usable derivatives, solvates, salts and stereoisomers thereof, including mixtures thereof in all ratios, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases which are influenced by inhibition of tyrosine kinases by the compounds according to Claim 1.

Particular preference is given to the use for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases which are influenced by inhibition of TIE-2 by the compounds according to Claim 1.

5 Especial preference is given to the use for the treatment of a disease where the disease is a solid tumour.

10 The solid tumour is preferably selected from the group consisting of cerebral tumour, tumour of the genito-urinary tract, tumour of the lymphatic system, stomach tumour, laryngeal tumour and lung tumour.

15 The solid tumour is furthermore preferably selected from the group consisting of monocytic leukaemia, lung adenocarcinoma, small cell lung carcinomas, pancreatic cancer, glioblastomas and breast carcinoma.

20 The invention furthermore relates to the use of the compounds according to the invention for the treatment of a disease in which angiogenesis is involved.

The disease is preferably an eye disease.

25 The invention furthermore relates to the use for the treatment of retinal vascularisation, diabetic retinopathy, age-induced macular degeneration and/or inflammatory diseases.

30 The inflammatory disease is preferably selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, contact dermatitis and delayed hypersensitivity reaction.

35 The invention furthermore relates to the use of the compounds according to the invention for the treatment of bone pathologies, where the bone

pathology originates from the group osteosarcoma, osteoarthritis and rickets.

5 The compounds of the formula I according to Claim 1 are suitable for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases which are caused, mediated and/or propagated by Raf kinases, where the Raf kinase is selected from the group consisting of A-Raf, B-Raf and Raf-1.

10 Preference is given to the use for the treatment of diseases, preferably from the group hyperproliferative and non-hyperproliferative diseases. These are cancerous diseases or non-cancerous diseases.

15 The non-cancerous diseases are selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, arthritis, inflammation, endometriosis, scarring, benign prostatic hyperplasia, immunological diseases, autoimmune diseases and immunodeficiency diseases.

20 The cancerous diseases are selected from the group consisting of brain cancer, lung cancer, squamous cell cancer, bladder cancer, gastric cancer, pancreatic cancer, hepatic cancer, renal cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, head cancer, neck cancer, oesophageal cancer, gynaecological cancer, thyroid cancer, lymphoma, chronic leukaemia and acute leukaemia.

25 The compounds according to the invention may also be administered at the same time as other well-known therapeutic agents that are selected for their particular usefulness against the condition that is being treated. For example, in the case of bone conditions, combinations that would be
30 favourable include those with antiresorptive bisphosphonates, such as alendronate and risedronate; integrin blockers (as defined further below), such as $\alpha v \beta 3$ antagonists; conjugated oestrogens used in hormone replacement therapy, such as Prempro®, Premarin® and Endometrion®;
35 selective oestrogen receptor modulators (SERMs), such as raloxifene,

droloxifene, CP-336.156 (Pfizer) and lasofoxifene; cathepsin K inhibitors; and ATP proton pump inhibitors.

The present compounds are also suitable for combination with known anti-cancer agents. These known anti-cancer agents include the following:

5 oestrogen receptor modulators, androgen receptor modulators, retinoid receptor modulators, cytotoxic agents, antiproliferative agents, prenyl-protein transferase inhibitors, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, HIV protease inhibitors, reverse transcriptase inhibitors and other angiogenesis inhibitors. The present compounds are particularly suitable for administration at

10 the same time as radiotherapy. The synergistic effects of inhibiting VEGF in combination with radiotherapy have been described in the art (see WO 00/61186).

"Oestrogen receptor modulators" refers to compounds which interfere with or inhibit the binding of oestrogen to the receptor, regardless of mechanism. Examples of oestrogen receptor modulators include, but are not limited to, tamoxifen, raloxifene, idoxifene, LY353381, LY 117081, toremifene, fulvestrant, 4-[7-(2,2-dimethyl-1-oxopropoxy-4-methyl-2-[4-[2-

20 (1-piperidinyloxy]phenyl]-2H-1-benzopyran-3-yl]phenyl-2,2-dimethylpropanoate, 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone-2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone and SH646.

"Androgen receptor modulators" refers to compounds which interfere with or inhibit the binding of androgens to the receptor, regardless of mechanism. Examples of androgen receptor modulators include finasteride and other 5 α -reductase inhibitors, nilutamide, flutamide, bicalutamide, liarozole and abiraterone acetate.

25

"Retinoid receptor modulators" refers to compounds which interfere with or inhibit the binding of retinoids to the receptor, regardless of mechanism. Examples of such retinoid receptor modulators include bexarotene, tretinoin, 13-cis-retinoic acid, 9-cis-retinoic acid, α -difluoromethylornithine, ILX23-7553, trans-N-(4'-hydroxyphenyl)retinamide and N-4-carboxyphenyl

30

35 retinamide.

"Cytotoxic agents" refers to compounds which result in cell death primarily through direct action on the cellular function or inhibit or interfere with cell myosis, including alkylating agents, tumour necrosis factors, intercalators, microtubulin inhibitors and topoisomerase inhibitors.

5 Examples of cytotoxic agents include, but are not limited to, tirapazimine, sertenef, cachectin, ifosfamide, tasonermin, lonidamine, carboplatin, altretamine, prednimustine, dibromodulcitol, ranimustine, fotemustine, nedaplatin, oxaliplatin, temozolomide, heptaplatin, estramustine, impro-
10 sulfan tosylate, trofosfamide, nimustine, dibrospidium chloride, pumitepa, lobaplatin, satraplatin, profiromycin, cisplatin, irofulven, dexifosfamide, cis-
aminedichloro(2-methylpyridine)platinum, benzylguanine, glufosfamide, GPX100, (trans,trans,trans)bis-mu-(hexane-1,6-diamine)mu-[diamine-
15 platinum(II)]bis[diamine(chloro)platinum(II)] tetrachloride, diarisdinylsper-
mine, arsenic trioxide, 1-(11-dodecylamino-10-hydroxyundecyl)-3,7-
dimethylxanthine, zorubicin, idarubicin, daunorubicin, bisantrene, mitoxan-
trone, pirarubicin, pinafide, valrubicin, amrubicin, antineoplaston, 3'-de-
amino-3'-morpholino-13-deoxo-10-hydroxycarminomycin, annamycin,
20 galarubicin, elinafide, MEN10755 and 4-demethoxy-3-deamino-3-aziridinyl-
4-methylsulfonyldaunorubicin (see WO 00/50032).

Examples of microtubulin inhibitors include paclitaxel, vindesine sulfate,
3',4'-didehydro-4'-deoxy-8'-norvincal leukoblastine, docetaxol, rhizoxin,
25 dolastatin, mivobulin isethionate, auristatin, cemadotin, RPR109881,
BMS184476, vinflunine, cryptophycin, 2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-N-(3-fluoro-4-
methoxyphenyl)benzenesulfonamide, anhydrovinblastine, N,N-dimethyl-L-
valyl-L-valyl-N-methyl-L-valyl-L-prolyl-L-proline-t-butylamide, TDX258 and
BMS188797.

30 Some examples of topoisomerase inhibitors are topotecan, hycaptamine,
irinotecan, rubitecan, 6-ethoxypropionyl-3',4'-O-exobenzylidene- char-
treusin, 9-methoxy-N,N-dimethyl-5-nitropyrazolo[3,4,5-kl]acridine-2-
(6H)propanamine, 1-amino-9-ethyl-5-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-9-hydroxy-4-
35 methyl-1H,12H-benzo[de]pyrano[3',4':b,7]indolizino[1,2b]quinoline-
10.13(9H,15H)dione, lurtotecan, 7-[2-(N-isopropylamino)ethyl]-(20S)-

camptothecin, BNP1350, BNPI1100, BN80915, BN80942, etoposide phosphate, teniposide, sobuzoxane, 2'-dimethylamino-2'-deoxyetoposide, GL331, N-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-9-hydroxy-5,6-dimethyl-6H-pyrido[4,3-b]carbazole-1-carboxamide, asulacrine, (5a,5aB,8aa,9b)-9-[2-[N-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-N-methylamino]ethyl]-5-[4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl]-5,5a,6,8,8a,9-hexahydrofuro(3',4':6,7)naphtho(2,3-d)-1,3-dioxol-6-one, 2,3-(methylenedioxy)-5-methyl-7-hydroxy-8-methoxybenzo[c]phenanthridinium, 6,9-bis[(2-aminoethyl)amino]benzo[g]isoquinoline-5,10-dione, 5-(3-aminopropylamino)-7,10-dihydroxy-2-(2-hydroxyethylaminomethyl)-6H-pyrazolo[4,5,1-de]acridin-6-one, N-[1-[2-(diethylamino)ethylamino]-7-methoxy-9-oxo-9H-thioxanthen-4-ylmethyl]formamide, N-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)acridine-4-carboxamide, 6-[[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]amino]-3-hydroxy-7H-indeno[2,1-c]quinolin-7-one and dimesna.

"Antiproliferative agents" include antisense RNA and DNA oligonucleotides such as G3139, ODN698, RVASKRAS, GEM231 and INX3001 and anti-metabolites such as enocitabine, carmofur, tegafur, pentostatin, doxifluridine, trimetrexate, fludarabine, capecitabine, galocitabine, cytarabine, ocfosfate, fosteabine sodium hydrate, raltitrexed, paltitrexid, emitefur, tiazofurin, decitabine, nolatrexed, pemetrexed, nelzarabine, 2'-deoxy-2'-methylidenecytidine, 2'-fluoromethylene-2'-deoxycytidine, N-[5-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuryl)sulfonyl]-N'-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)urea, N6-[4-deoxy-4-[N2-[2(E),4(E)-tetradecadienoyl]glycylamino]-L-glycero-B-L-mannoheptopyranosyl]adenine, aplidine, ecteinascidin, troxacitabine, 4-[2-amino-4-oxo-4,6,7,8-tetrahydro-3H-pyrimidino[5,4-b]-1,4-thiazin-6-yl-(S)-ethyl]-2,5-thienoyl-L-glutamic acid, aminopterin, 5-fluorouracil, alanosine, 11-acetyl-8-(carbamoyloxymethyl)-4-formyl-6-methoxy-14-oxa-1,11-diazatetracyclo(7.4.1.0.0)tetradeca-2,4,6-trien-9-ylacetic acid ester, swainsonine, lometrexol, dexrazoxane, methioninase, 2'-cyano-2'-deoxy-N4-palmitoyl-1-B-D-arabinofuranosyl cytosine and 3-aminopyridine-2-carboxaldehyde thiosemicarbazone. "Antiproliferative agents" also include monoclonal antibodies to growth factors other than those listed under "angiogenesis inhibitors", such as trastuzumab, and tumour suppressor genes, such as

p53, which can be delivered via recombinant virus-mediated gene transfer (see US Patent No. 6,069,134, for example).

The invention furthermore relates to the use of the compounds according to the invention for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases where the disease is characterised by disturbed angiogenesis. The disease is preferably cancer diseases.

The disturbed angiogenesis preferably results from disturbed VEGFR-1, VEGFR-2 and/or VEGFR-3 activity.

Particular preference is therefore also given to the use of the compounds according to the invention for the preparation of a medicament for the inhibition of VEGFR-2 activity.

ASSAYS

The compounds according to the invention described in the examples were tested by the assays described below and were found to have kinase inhibitory activity. Other assays are known from the literature and could readily be performed by the person skilled in the art (see, for example, Dhanabal et al., *Cancer Res.* 59:189-197; Xin et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 274:9116-9121; Sheu et al., *Anticancer Res.* 18:4435-4441; Ausprunk et al., *Dev. Biol.* 38:237-248; Gimbrone et al., *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 52:413-427; Nicosia et al., *In Vitro* 18:538- 549).

VEGF receptor kinase assay

VEGF receptor kinase activity is measured by incorporation of radio-labelled phosphate into 4:1 polyglutamic acid/tyrosine substrate (pEY). The phosphorylated pEY product is trapped onto a filter membrane and the incorporation of radiolabelled phosphate is quantified by scintillation counting.

MATERIALS

VEGF receptor kinase

The intracellular tyrosine kinase domains of human KDR (Terman, B. I. et al. Oncogene (1991) Vol. 6, pp. 1677-1683.) and Flt-1 (Shibuya, M. et al. Oncogene (1990) Vol. 5, pp. 519-524) were cloned as glutathione S-transferase (GST) gene fusion proteins. This was accomplished by cloning the cytoplasmic domain of the KDR kinase as an in frame fusion at the carboxyl terminus of the GST gene. Soluble recombinant GST-kinase domain fusion proteins were expressed in *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Sf21) insect cells (Invitrogen) using a baculovirus expression vector (pAcG2T, Pharmingen).

Lysis buffer

50 mM Tris pH 7.4, 0.5 M NaCl, 5 mM DTT, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5% triton X-100, 10% glycerol, 10 mg/ml each of leupeptin, pepstatin and aprotinin and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (all Sigma).

Wash buffer

50 mM Tris pH 7.4, 0.5 M NaCl, 5 mM DTT, 1 mM EDTA, 0.05% triton X-100, 10% glycerol, 10 mg/ml each of leupeptin, pepstatin and aprotinin and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride.

Dialysis buffer

50 mM Tris pH 7.4, 0.5 M NaCl, 5 mM DTT, 1 mM EDTA, 0.05% triton X-100, 50% glycerol, 10 mg/ml each of leupeptin, pepstatin and aprotinin and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride.

10× reaction buffer

200 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 1.0 M NaCl, 50 mM MnCl₂, 10 mM DTT and 5 mg/ml bovine serum albumin [BSA] (Sigma).

Enzyme dilution buffer

50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 0.1 M NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 10% glycerol, 100 mg/ml BSA.

10× substrate

750 µg/ml poly(glutamic acid/tyrosine; 4:1) (Sigma).

Stop solution

30% trichloroacetic acid, 0.2 M sodium pyrophosphate (both Fisher).

Wash solution

15% trichloroacetic acid, 0.2 M sodium pyrophosphate.

Filter plates

Millipore #MAFC NOB, GF/C glass fibre 96 well plate.

5 Method A – protein purification

1. Sf21 cells were infected with recombinant virus at a multiplicity of infection of 5 virus particles/cell and grown at 27°C for 48 hours.

10 2. All steps were performed at 4°C. Infected cells were harvested by centrifugation at 1000×g and lysed at 4°C for 30 minutes with 1/10 volume of lysis buffer followed by centrifugation at 100.000×g for 1 hour. The supernatant was then passed over a glutathione Sepharose column (Pharmacia) equilibrated with lysis buffer and washed with 5 volumes of the same buffer followed by 5 volumes of wash buffer. Recombinant GST-KDR protein was eluted with wash buffer/10 mM reduced glutathione (Sigma) and

15 dialysed against dialysis buffer.

Method B – VEGF receptor kinase assay

1. Add 5 µl of inhibitor or control to the assay in 50% DMSO.

20 2. Add 35 µl of reaction mixture containing 5 µl of 10× reaction buffer, 5 µl of 25 mM ATP/10 µCi [³³P]ATP (Amersham) and 5 µl of 10× substrate.

3. Start the reaction by the addition of 10 µl of KDR (25 nM) in enzyme dilution buffer.

25 4. Mix and incubate at room temperature for 15 minutes.

5. Stop the reaction by the addition of 50 µl of stop solution.

6. Incubate for 15 minutes at 4°C.

7. Transfer a 90 µl aliquot to filter plate.

8. Aspirate and wash 3 times with wash solution.

30 9. Add 30 µl of scintillation cocktail, seal plate and count in a Wallace Microbeta scintillation counter.

Human umbilical vein endothelial cell mitogenesis assay

35 Expression of VEGF receptors that mediate mitogenic responses to the growth factor is largely restricted to vascular endothelial cells. Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) in culture proliferate in response to

VEGF treatment and can be used as an assay system to quantify the effects of KDR kinase inhibitors on VEGF stimulation. In the assay described, quiescent HUVEC monolayers are treated with vehicle or test compound 2 hours prior to addition of VEGF or basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF). The mitogenic response to VEGF or bFGF is determined by measuring the incorporation of [3 H]thymidine into cellular DNA.

Materials

HUVECs

HUVECs frozen as primary culture isolates are obtained from Clonetics Corp. Cells are maintained in endothelial growth medium (EGM; Clonetics) and are used for mitogenic assays at passages 3-7.

Culture plates

NUNCCLON 96-well polystyrene tissue culture plates (NUNC #167008).

Assay medium

Dulbecco's modification of Eagle's medium containing 1 g/ml glucose (low-glucose DMEM; Mediatech) plus 10% (v/v) foetal bovine serum (Clonetics).

Test compounds

Working stock solutions of test compounds are diluted serially in 100% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) to 400 times greater than their desired final concentrations. Final dilutions to 1 \times concentration are made into assay medium immediately prior to addition to cells.

10 \times growth factors

Solutions of human VEGF 165 (500 ng/ml; R&D Systems) and bFGF (10 ng/ml; R&D Systems) are prepared in assay medium.

10 \times [3 H]thymidine

[Methyl- 3 H]thymidine (20 Ci/mmol; Dupont-NEN) is diluted to 80 μ Ci/ml in low-glucose DMEM.

Cell wash medium

Hank's balanced salt solution (Mediatech) containing 1 mg/ml bovine serum albumin (Boehringer-Mannheim).

Cell lysis solution

1 N NaOH, 2% (w/v) Na₂CO₃.

Method 1

HUVEC monolayers maintained in EGM are harvested by trypsinisation and plated out at a density of 4000 cells per 100 µl of assay medium per well in 96-well plates. Cell growth is arrested for 24 hours at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂.

Method 2

Growth-arrest medium is replaced by 100 µl of assay medium containing either vehicle (0.25% [v/v] DMSO) or the desired final concentration of test compound. All determinations are performed in triplicate. Cells are then incubated at 37°C/5% CO₂ for 2 hours to allow test compounds to enter cells.

Method 3

After the 2-hour pre-treatment period, cells are stimulated by addition of 10 µl/well of either assay medium, 10× VEGF solution or 10× bFGF solution. Cells are then incubated at 37°C/5% CO₂.

Method 4

After 24 hours in the presence of growth factors, 10× [³H]thymidine (10 µl/well) is added.

Method 5

Three days after addition of [³H]thymidine, medium is removed by aspiration, and cells are washed twice with cell wash medium (400 µl/well followed by 200 µl/well). The washed, adherent cells are then solubilised by addition of cell lysis solution (100 µl/well) and warming to 37°C for 30 minutes. Cell lysates are transferred to 7 ml glass scintillation vials containing 150 µl of water. Scintillation cocktail (5 ml/vial) is added, and cell-associated radioactivity is determined by liquid scintillation spectroscopy.

According to these assays, the compounds of the formula I are inhibitors of VEGF and are thus suitable for the inhibition of angiogenesis, such as in the treatment of ocular diseases, for example diabetic retinopathy, and for the treatment of carcinomas, for example solid tumours. The present

compounds inhibit VEGF-stimulated mitogenesis of human vascular endothelial cells in culture with IC₅₀ values of 0.01-5.0 μ M. These compounds also show selectivity over related tyrosine kinases (for example FGFR1 and the Src family; for relationship between Src kinases and VEGFR kinases, see Eliceiri et al., Molecular Cell, Vol. 4, pp.915-924, December 1999).

The **TIE-2** tests can be carried out, for example, analogously to the methods indicated in WO 02/44156.

The assay determines the inhibiting activity of the substances to be tested in the phosphorylation of the substrate poly(Glu, Tyr) by Tie-2 kinase in the presence of radioactive ³³P-ATP. The phosphorylated substrate binds to the surface of a "flashplate" microtitre plate during the incubation time. After removal of the reaction mixture, the microtitre plate is washed a number of times and the radioactivity on its surface is subsequently measured. An inhibiting effect of the substances to be measured results in lower radioactivity compared with an undisturbed enzymatic reaction.

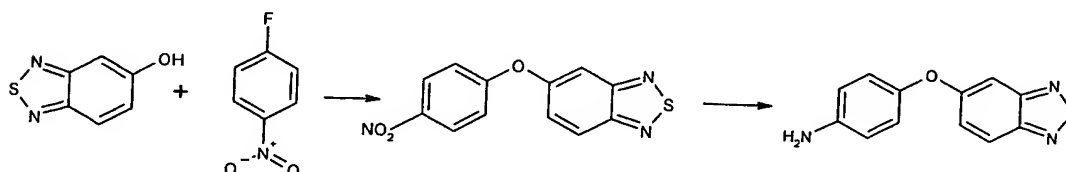
Above and below, all temperatures are indicated in °C. In the following examples, "conventional work-up" means that, if necessary, water is added, the pH is adjusted, if necessary, to a value of between 2 and 10, depending on the constitution of the end product, the mixture is extracted with ethyl acetate or dichloromethane, the phases are separated, the organic phase is dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated, and the product is purified by chromatography on silica gel and/or by crystallisation. R_f values on silica gel; eluent: ethyl acetate/methanol 9:1.

Mass spectrometry (MS): EI (electron impact ionisation) M⁺
FAB (fast atom bombardment) (M+H)⁺
ESI (electrospray ionisation) (M+H)⁺

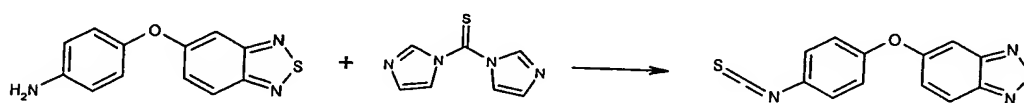
Example 1

The preparation of [4-(benzo-1,2,5-thiadiazol-5-yloxy)phenyl](4-bromo-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-yl)amine ("A1") is carried out analogously to the following scheme:

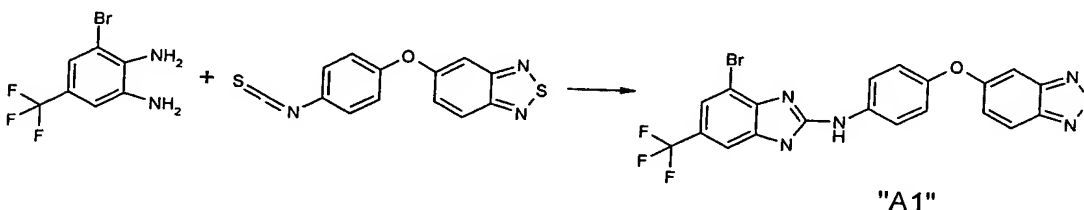
5



10



15



20

1.1 Preparation of 4-(benzo-1,2,5-thiadiazol-5-yloxy)phenylamine ("A2"):

25

1.8 g of benzo-1,2,5-thiadiazol-5-ol and 1.3 ml of 4-fluoronitrobenzene are dissolved in 25 ml of DMF, and 3.9 g of caesium carbonate are added. The reaction mixture is stirred overnight at 85° C.

30

For work-up, water is added to the mixture, which is extracted with ethyl acetate. The collected organic phase are dried using anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and evaporated in a rotary evaporator. The residue is triturated with diethyl ether, giving 2.8 g of 5-(4-nitrophenoxy)benzo-1,2,5-thiadiazole; *R_f* (CH₂Cl₂) 0.65; EI-MS (M+H)⁺ 274.

35

The nitro compound is hydrogenated using Raney nickel to give the desired compound. Chromatography with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate

gives 1.3 g of "A2"; Rf (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 1/1) 0.75, EI-MS (M+H)⁺ 244.

5 1.2 400 mg of "A2" and 352 mg of 1,1'-thiocarbonyldiimidazole are dissolved in 40 ml of dichloromethane and stirred overnight at room temperature.

For work-up, the solvent is stripped off in a Rotavapor, and the residue is triturated with methanol. The solid substance is filtered off with suction,
10 giving 421 mg of the desired thioisocyanate (Rf CH₂Cl₂ 0.67).

1.3 For the further reaction, 89 mg of 1-bromo-2,3-diamino-5-trifluoromethylbenzene are dissolved in 0.4 ml of dichloromethane. A solution of
15 100 mg of the prepared thioisocyanate in 0.4 ml of dichloromethane and 0.05 ml of N,N'-diisopropylcarbodiimide in 0.3 ml of dichloromethane is subsequently added successively. The reaction mixture is stirred overnight with gentle warming.

20 For work-up, the solvent is evaporated in a rotary evaporator, and the residue is chromatographed (silica gel chromatography petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 8:2), giving 60 mg of "A1"; Rf (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 1:1) 0.51;

25 EI-MS (M+H)⁺ 508.

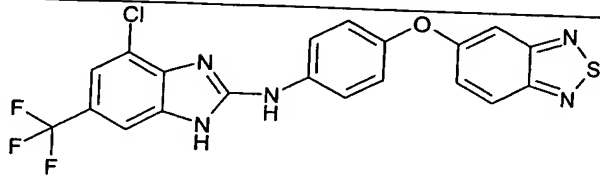
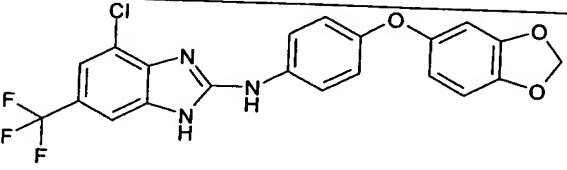
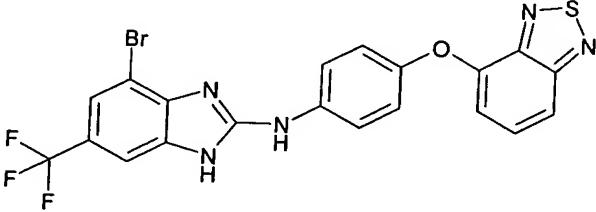
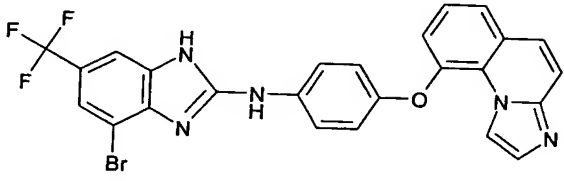
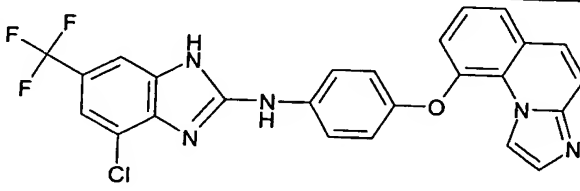
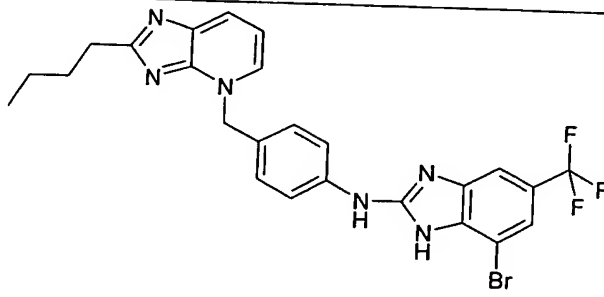
For purification, preparative HPLC with the following conditions can be used:

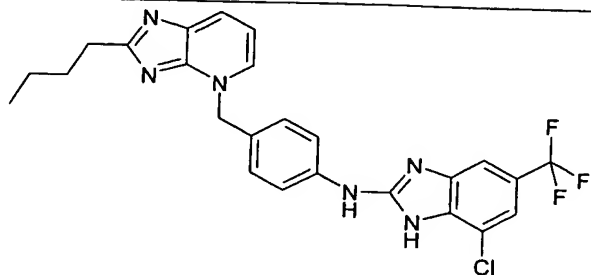
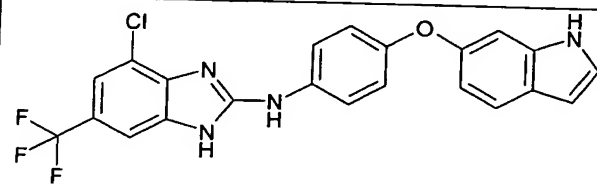
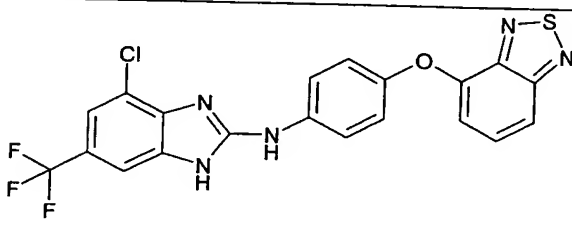
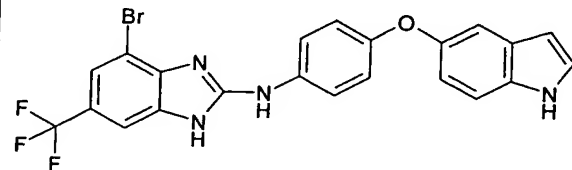
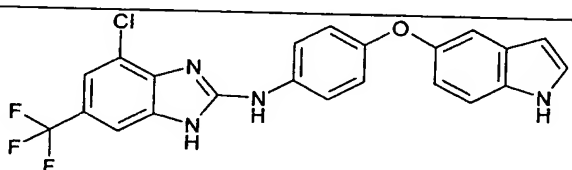
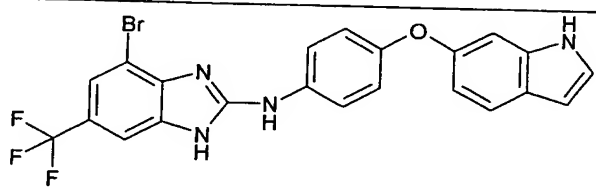
Column: RP 18 (7 μm) Lichrosorb 250x25

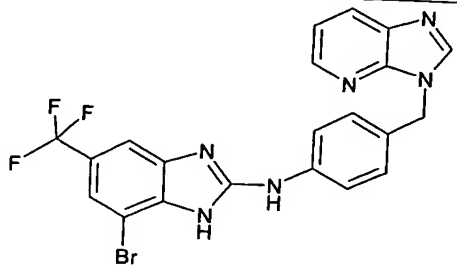
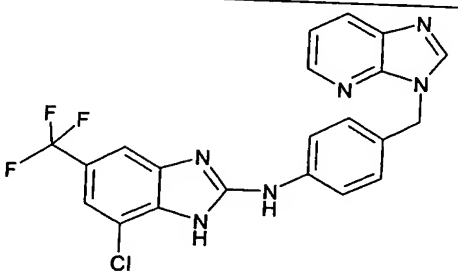
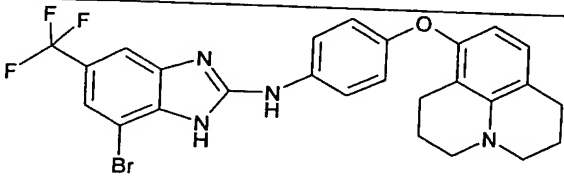
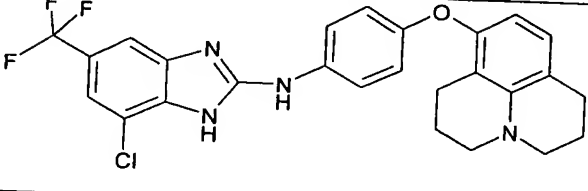
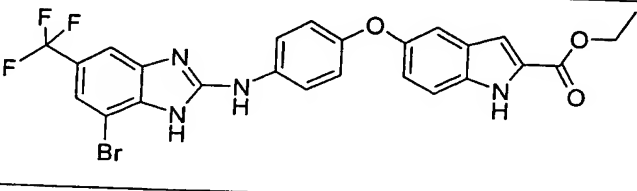
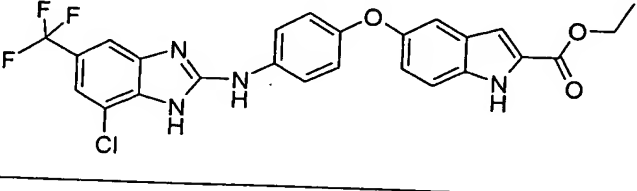
30 Eluent: A: 98 H₂O, 2 CH₃CN, 0.1%TFA
B: 10 H₂O, 90 CH₃CN, 0.1%TFA

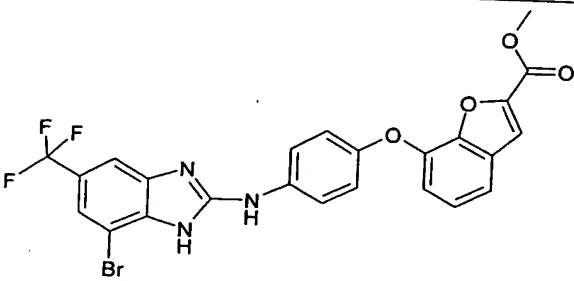
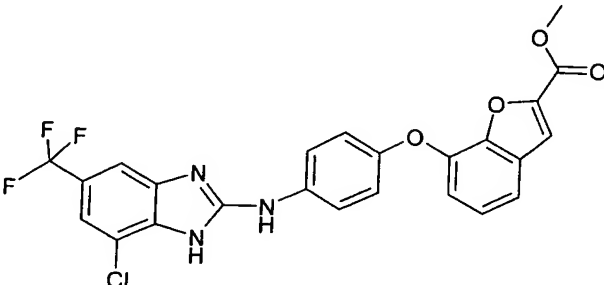
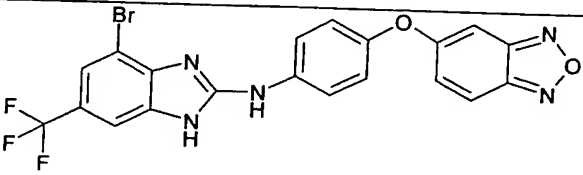
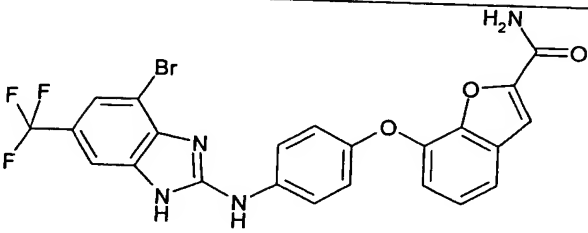
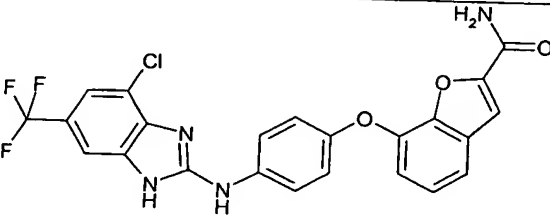
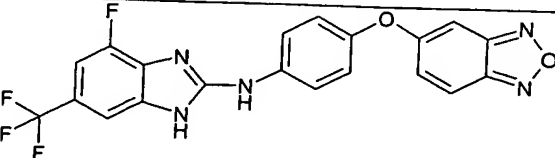
UV: 225 NM; flow rate: 10 ml/min.

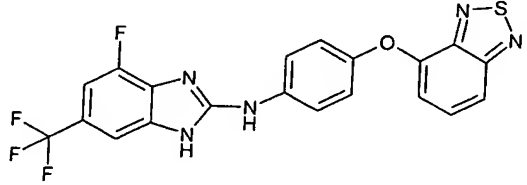
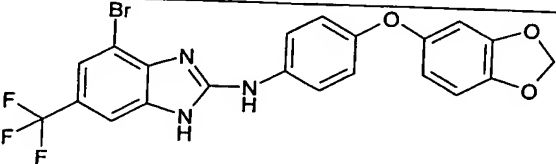
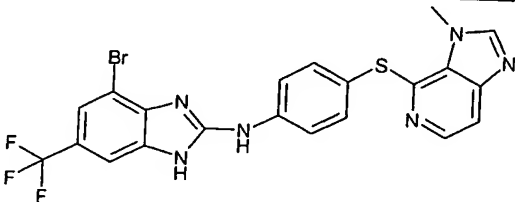
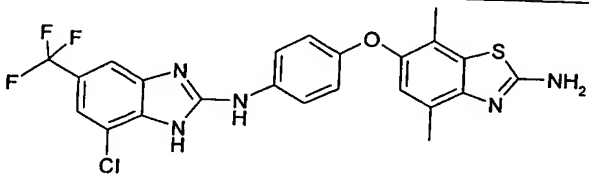
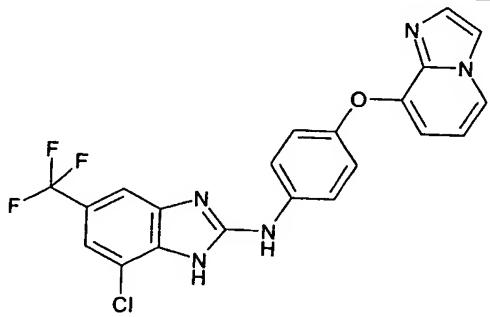
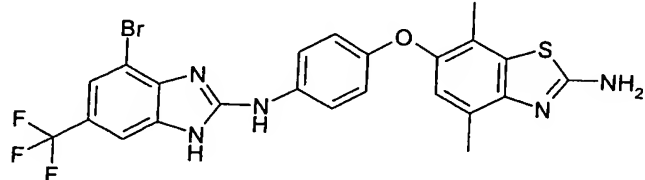
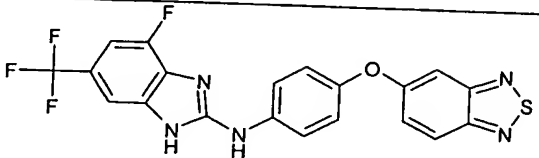
35 The following compounds are obtained analogously by reaction of the aromatic diamine with the corresponding thioisocyanate:

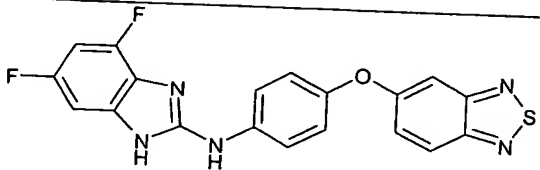
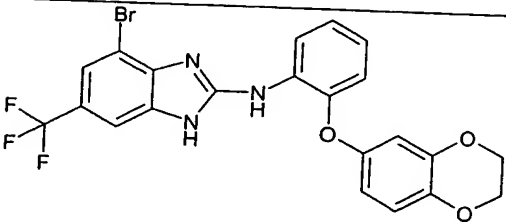
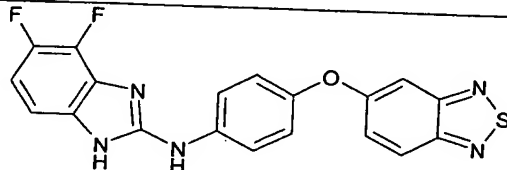
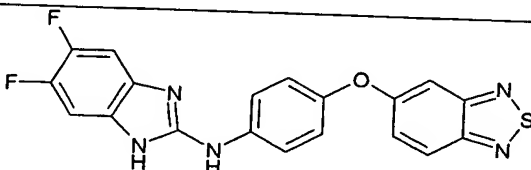
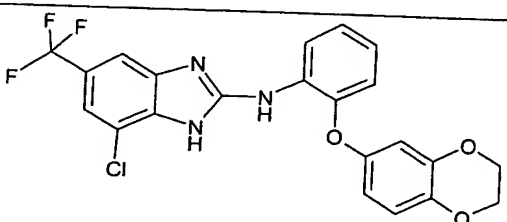
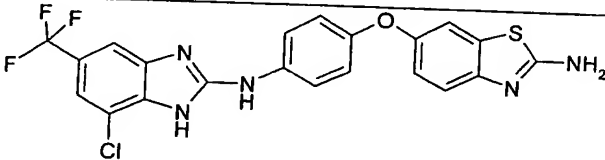
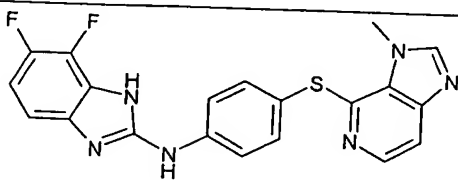
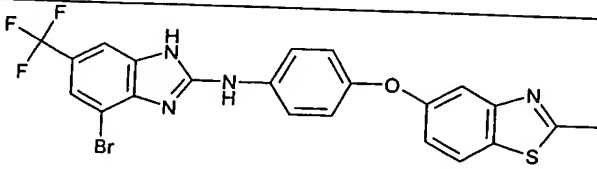
	Structure	No.	MW	EI-MS (M+H) ⁺ or HPLC-MS
5		2	461.9	464
10		3	447.8	449
15		4	506.3	507
20		5	538.3	539*
25		6	493.9	494*
30		7	534.4	544*
35				

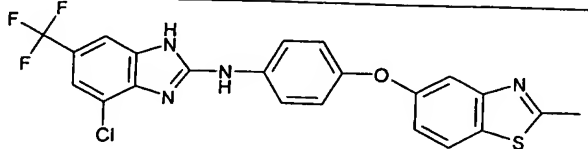
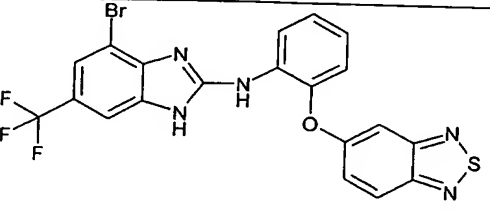
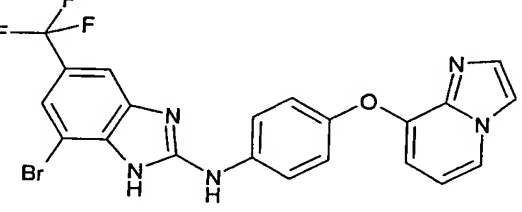
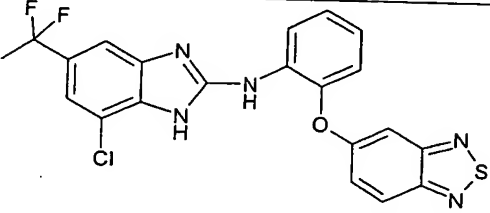
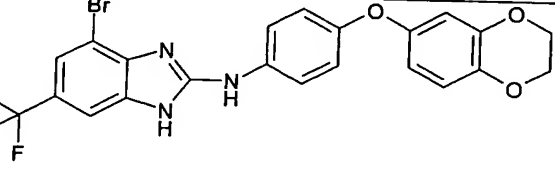
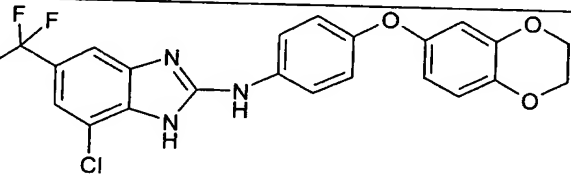
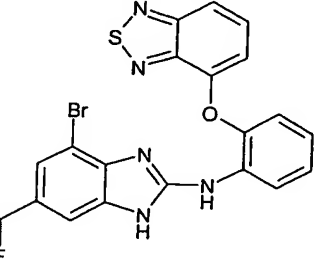
5		8	498.9	500*
10		9	442.8	443*
15		10	461.9	463*
20		11	487.3	488
25		12	442.8	444
30		13	487.3	488

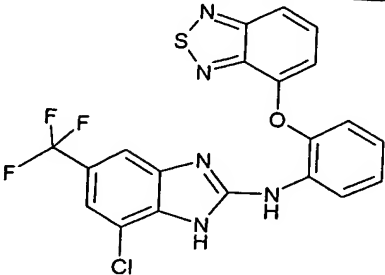
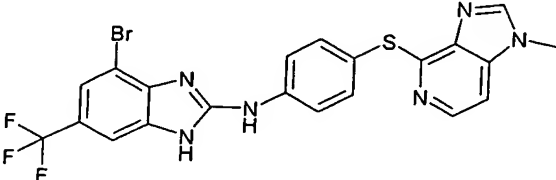
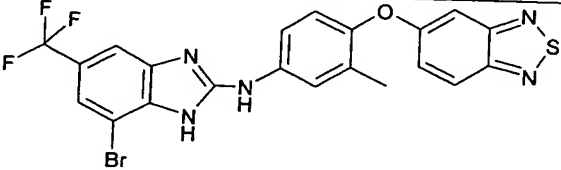
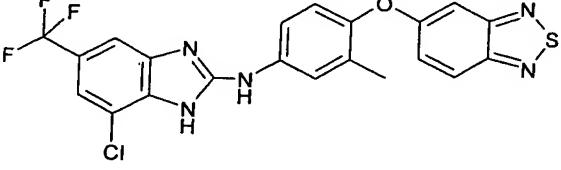
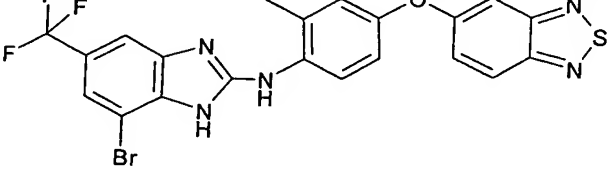
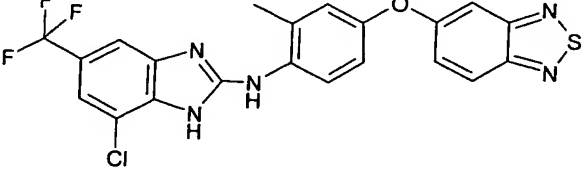
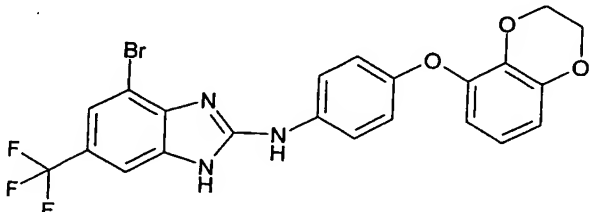
5		14	487.3	488*
10		15	442.8	445
15		16	543.4	545
20		17	498.9	501
25		18	559.3	560
30		19	514.9	516

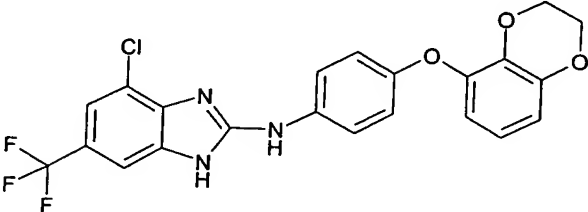
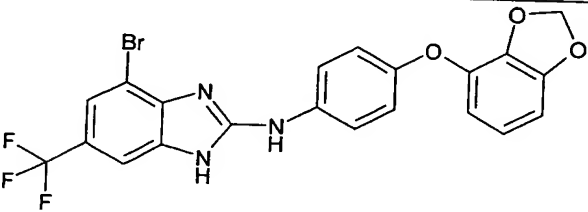
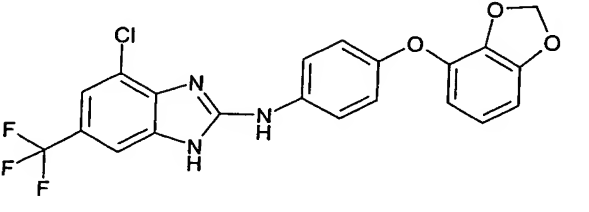
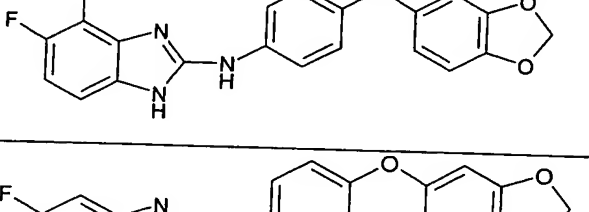
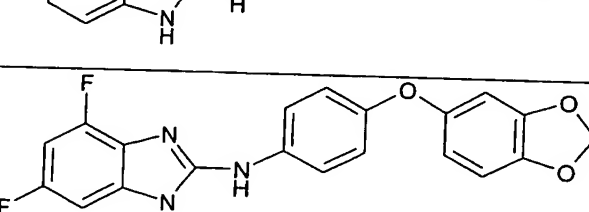
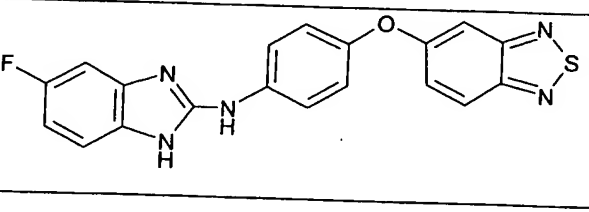
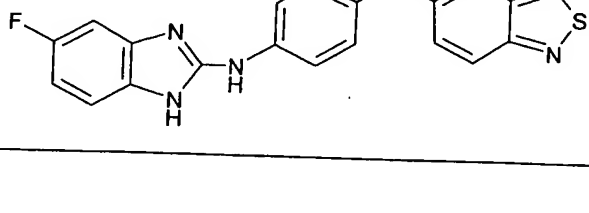
5		20	546.3	547*
10		21	501.9	503*
15		22	490.2	491
20		23	531.3	531*
25		24	486.8	487*
30		25	429.3	430

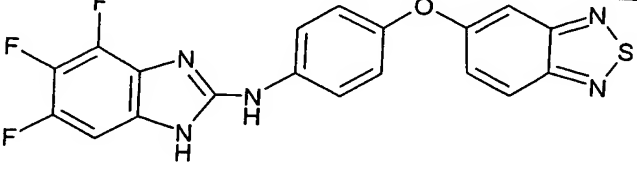
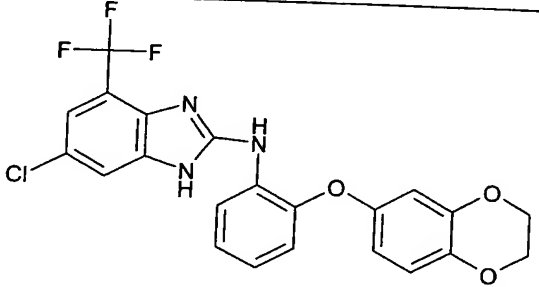
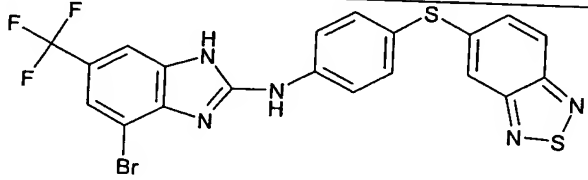
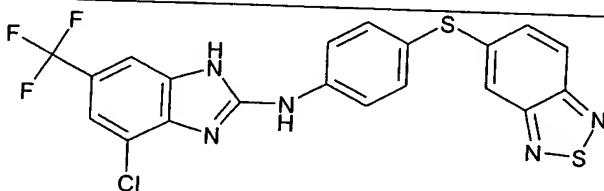
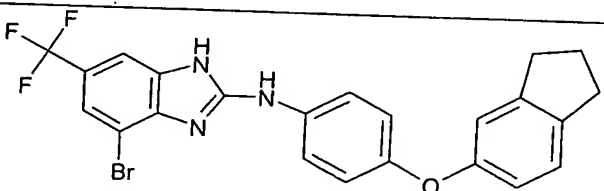
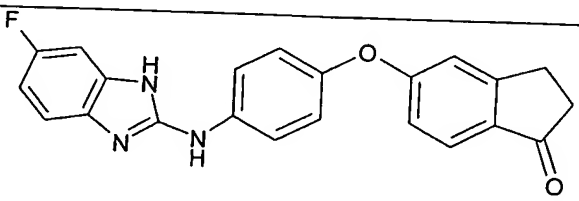
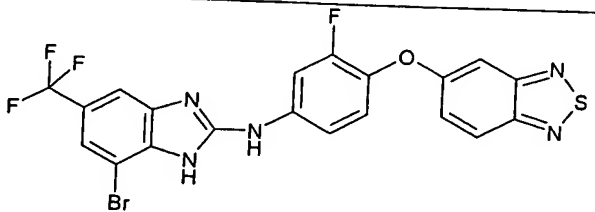
5		26	445.4	446
10		27	492.3	493*
15		28	519.3	520
20		29	503.9	504
25		30	443.8	444
30		31	548.4	549
35		32	445.4	446

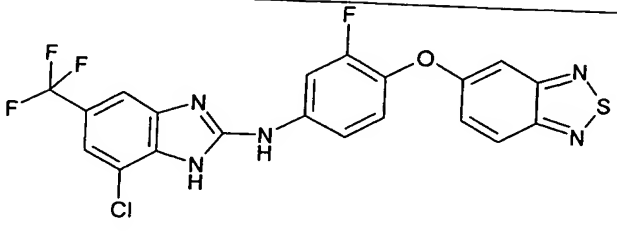
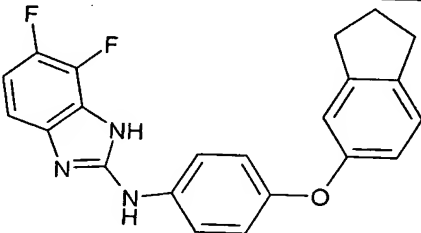
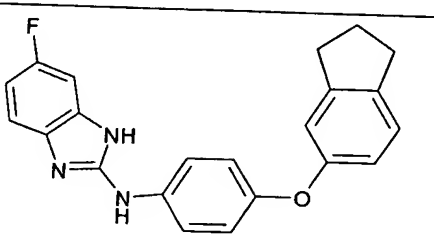
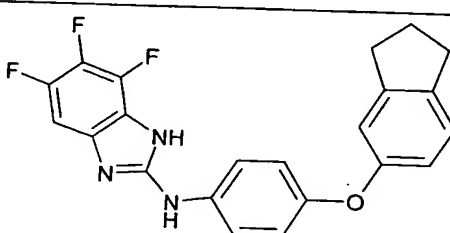
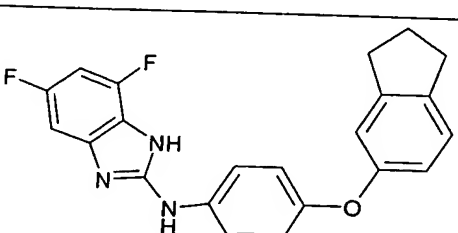
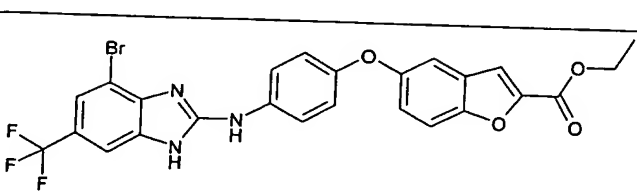
		33	395.4	396
5		34	506.3	507
10		35	395.4	396
15		36	395.4	396
20		37	461.8	462
25		38	475.9	476
30		39	408.4	409
35		40	519.3	520

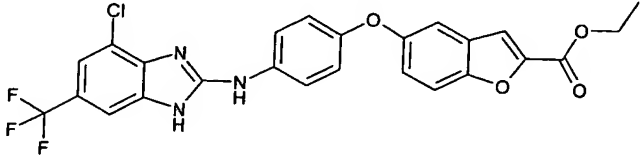
		41	474.9	475
5		42	506.3	507
10		43	488.3	488
15		44	461.9	462
20		45	506.3	507
25		46	461.8	462
30		47	506.3	507

5		48	461.9	462
10		49	519.3	520
15		50	520.3	521
20		51	475.9	478
25		52	520.3	521
30		53	475.9	477
35		54	506.3	507

5		55	461.8	463
10		56	492.3	493
15		57	447.8	449
20		58	381.3	382
25		59	363.4	364
30		60	381.3	382
		61	377.4	378

5		62	413.4	414
10		63	461.8	463
15		64	522.4	523
20		65	477.9	479
25		66	488.3	489
30		67	373.4	374
35		68	524.3	525

5		69	479.8	480
10		70	377.4	378
15		71	359.4	360
20		72	395.4	396
25		73	377.4	378
30		74	560.3	562

	75	515.9	516
---	----	-------	-----

* ESI-MS

Pharmacological test results

No.	Inhibition of TIE-2 IC ₅₀ (mol/l)	Inhibition of RAF IC ₅₀ ()
"A1"	2.2E-07	
2	2.5E-07	
38	3.2E-07	
31	3.9E-07	

The following examples relate to pharmaceutical preparations:

Example A: Injection vials

5

10

A solution of 100 g of an active ingredient according to the invention and 5 g of disodium hydrogenphosphate in 3 l of bidistilled water is adjusted to pH 6.5 using 2N hydrochloric acid, sterile filtered, transferred into injection vials, lyophilised under sterile conditions and sealed under sterile conditions. Each injection vial contains 5 mg of active ingredient.

Example B: Suppositories

15

A mixture of 20 g of an active ingredient according to the invention with 100 g of soya lecithin and 1400 g of cocoa butter is melted, poured into moulds and allowed to cool. Each suppository contains 20 mg of active ingredient.

20

Example C: Solution

25

A solution is prepared from 1 g of an active ingredient according to the invention, 9.38 g of $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 28.48 g of $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 12 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 0.1 g of benzalkonium chloride in 940 ml of bidistilled water. The pH is adjusted to 6.8, and the solution is made up to 1 l and sterilised by irradiation. This solution can be used in the form of eye drops.

30

Example D: Ointment

500 mg of an active ingredient according to the invention are mixed with 99.5 g of Vaseline under aseptic conditions.

35

Example E: Tablets

A mixture of 1 kg of active ingredient according to the invention, 4 kg of lactose, 1.2 kg of potato starch, 0.2 kg of talc and 0.1 kg of magnesium stearate is pressed to give tablets in a conventional manner in such a way that each tablet contains 10 mg of active ingredient.

Example F: Coated tablets

Tablets are pressed analogously to Example E and subsequently coated in a conventional manner with a coating of sucrose, potato starch, talc, tragacanth and dye.

Example G: Capsules

2 kg of active ingredient according to the invention are introduced into hard gelatine capsules in a conventional manner in such a way that each capsule contains 20 mg of the active ingredient.

Example H: Ampoules

A solution of 1 kg of an active ingredient according to the invention in 60 l of bidistilled water is sterile filtered, transferred into ampoules, lyophilised under sterile conditions and sealed under sterile conditions. Each ampoule contains 10 mg of active ingredient.